TWILIGHT TALES

KING OF BANDITS

王ドロボウJING

TOKYOPOP

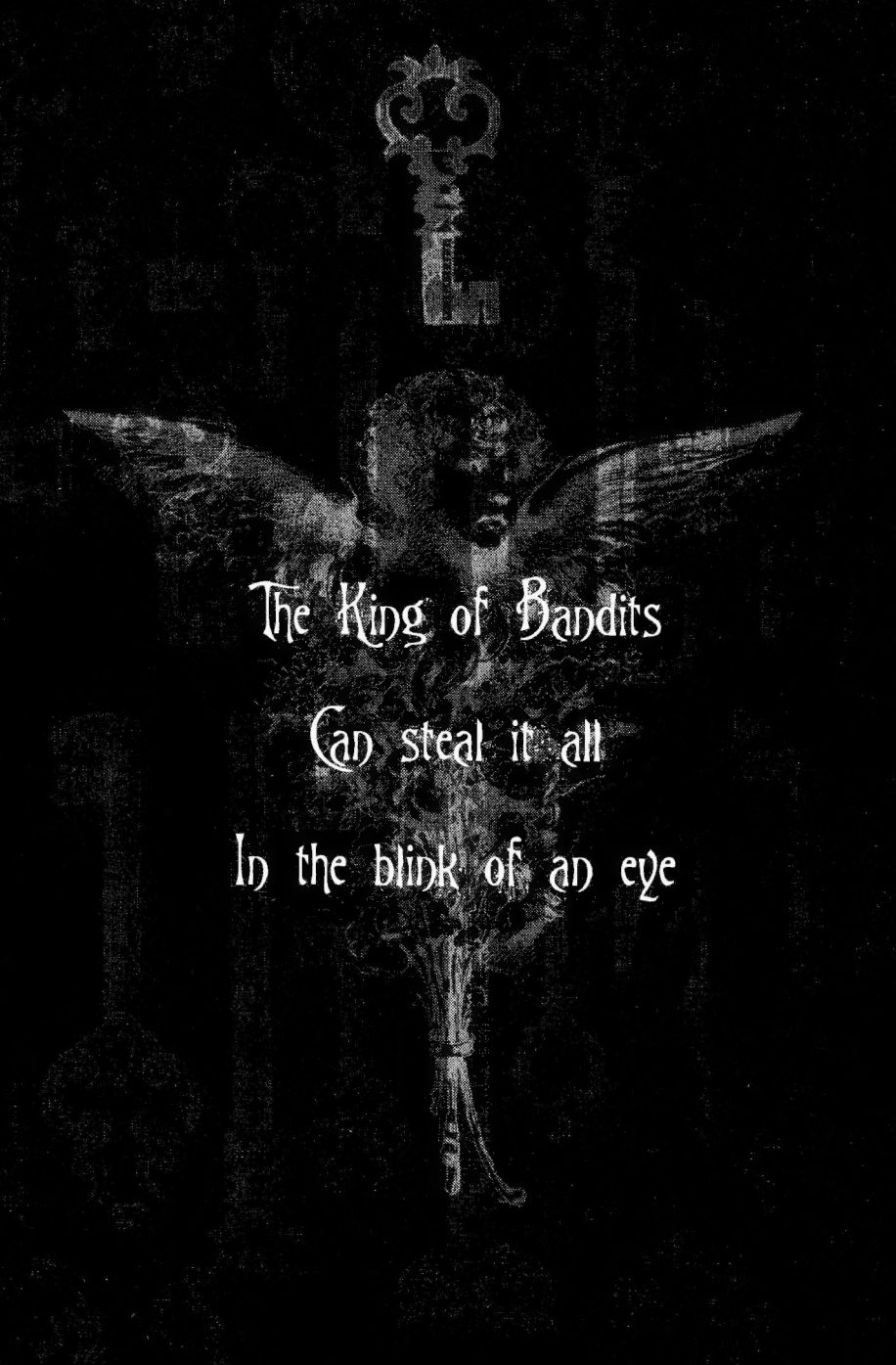
YUICHI KUMAKURA

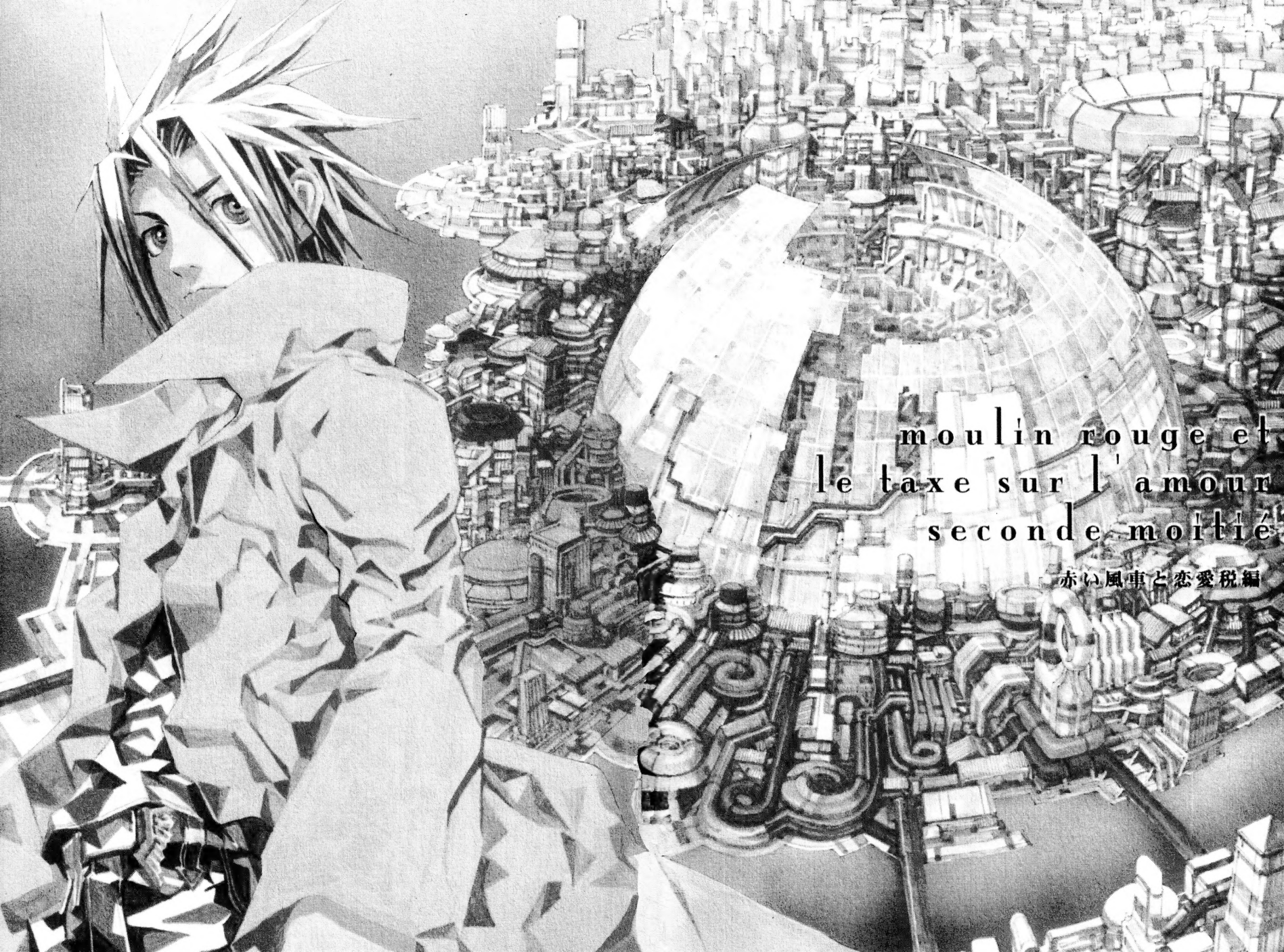
All that glitters...

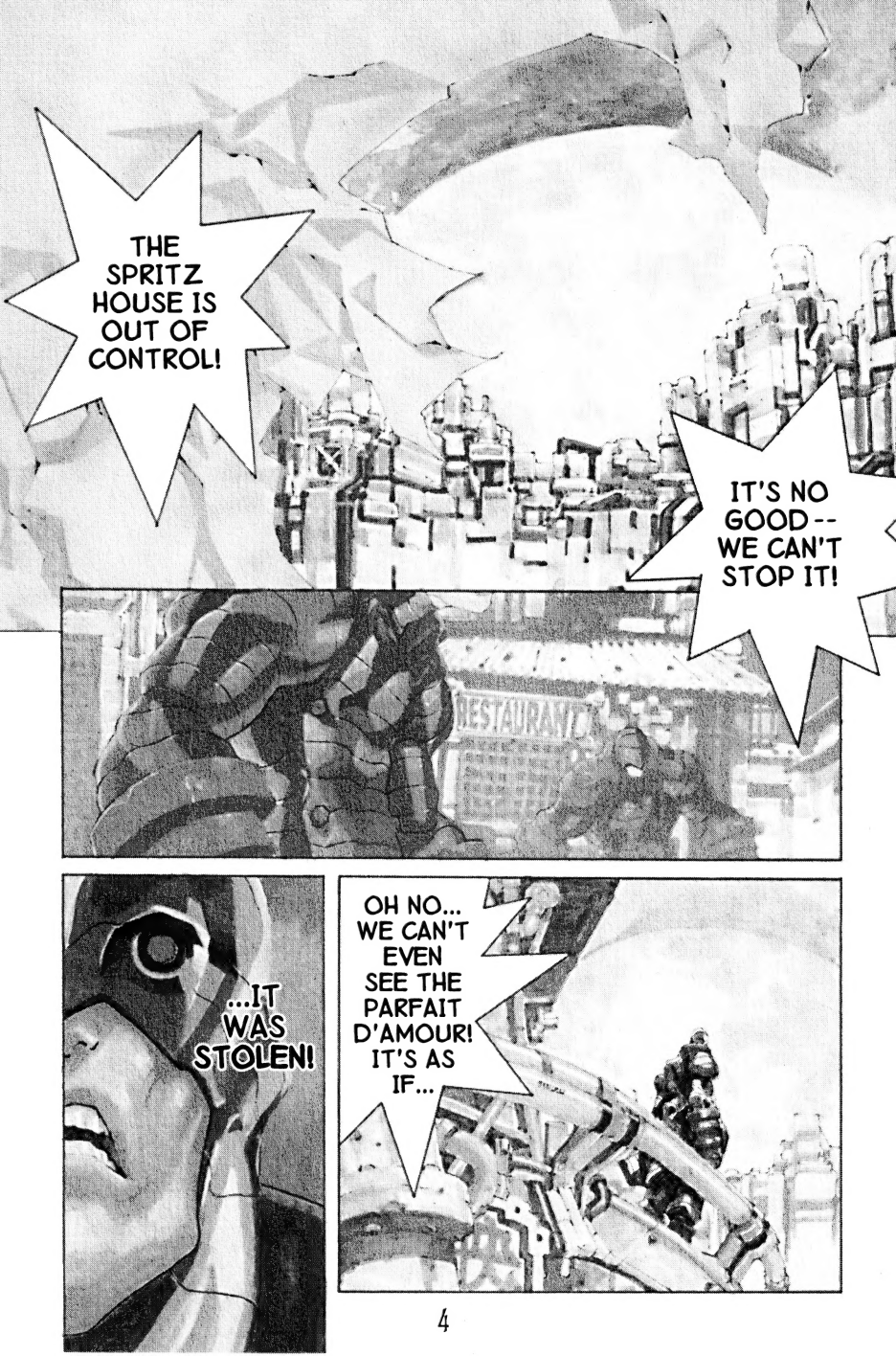
Even the stars

All things precious...

Even your life


The King of Bandits
Can steal it all
In the blink of an eye


moulin rouge et
le taxe sur l'amour
seconde mortie
赤い風車と恋愛税編


THE SPRITZ HOUSE IS OUT OF CONTROL!
IT'S NO GOOD -- WE CAN'T STOP IT!
RESTAURANT
...IT WAS STOLEN!
OH NO... WE CAN'T EVEN SEE THE PARFAIT D'AMOUR! IT'S AS IF...

KING OF BANDITS

JING

TWILIGHT TALES

VOLUME 5

STORY AND ART BY

YUICHI KUMAKURA

TOKYOPOP®

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Once upon a midnight dreary, a thief named Jing was weak and weary
Many strange and forgotten lands he did traverse and did explore.
His companion was a bird, an odd one name of Kir
Who possessed a strange vocation, a less than honest occupation.
"Wake up, Jing" Kir muttered, "all around is loot galore!"

Thus this ebony bird's wiling, changed Jing's sadness into willing
As he set about to do the thing he truly did adore.
So the albatross sat proudly on Jing's placid bust sang loudly
While his beady eyes explored the treasure stacked upon the floor.
One more thing that Kir did utter, his feathers all a greedy flutter
And his voice commenced a terrible dull roar,
Quoth the albatross, "Let's steal some more!"

JING: KING OF BANDITS
TWILIGHT TALES
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bottle5
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KING OF BANDITS

王ドロボウJING

TWILIGHT TALES

Story So Far...

HMMM... YOU'VE TESTED POSITIVE.
NOW, PLEASE PROVIDE ACCURATE RESPONSES TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. FIRST...
ARE YOU CURRENTLY IN A ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITE SEX?

Jing and Kir arrived in a town provocatively named Moulin Rouge. Despite the locale's lively sounding name, Moulin Rouge was quite dead-fun, frolic and dancing had been outlawed. In fact, for the past 24 years, this bummer of a burg has been known as "Special Funeral District Moulin Rouge." The city was such a colossal downer that couples in love were forced to pay a love tax. Jing's plan to steal a giant grave marker called the "Parfait d' Amour" hit a snag when he tested positive for...falling in love! Complicating matters, the object of Jing's alleged affection was Anisette, the tax enforcer of Moulin Rouge!

LORD BORUS!
WE'VE RECOVERED JET 27! HE'S THE MOST RECENT WITNESS.
IT APPEARS THE PLANT WILL BE OUT OF COMMISSION FOR A WHILE.
V-VIOL... LET...
B-B-BUT... UMM...
WE DID?!

THE DAMAGE IS QUITE EXTENSIVE.
THIS IS...VERY SEVERE.
What happened?
IT APPEARS AS IF HE WAS DESTROYED FROM THE INSIDE.
WITH THIS MUCH DAMAGE, IT'S HARD TO SAY.
So after I took him down, that's when I...
WELL, IS HIS DATA RECOVERABLE?!

...PART--
WHOA!
B-BBBBBBB-BAN...DIT!!!
IF THERE'S ANY DATA LEFT, IT'S PROBABLY ONLY A SMALL...
A-AAAAAAA-A...NISETTE!!
WHAT THE--?!
SSS..
MAYBE THESE ARE HIS FINAL MEMORIES?
Who's Anisette?
LLLLLL...OVE... L-LOVE!!!!!
LOVE?! HE SAID LOVE?!

LOVE...AT... AT...FIRST S-S-SIGHT!!!!!
NOT JUST LOVE, BUT LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT?!
SSS..
CRIME OF PASSION
UNFORTUNATELY... THIS CASE HAS JUST TAKEN A MORE SERIOUS TURN!

OUR COMRADE, OFFICER ANISETTE, HAS COMMITTED TAX EVASION BY WAY OF L.A.F.S...
CRIME OF PASSION
FLAP FLAP
...AND DESTROYED JET 27 WHILE ESCAPING WITH HER ACCOMPLICE...
Honey...where are you?
...WHO IS ALSO THE MASTERMIND BEHIND THE SPRITZ HOUSE EXPLOSION!
ANYWAY, THERE'S NOTHING MORE PERILOUS THAN UNBRIDLED LOVE! WE MUST HURRY!

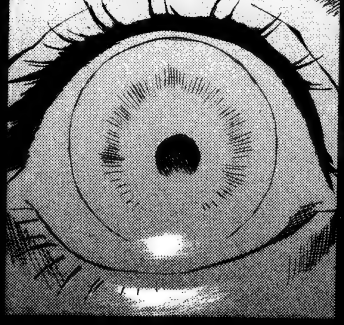
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!!
SKSHHH
DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY?! RESISTING ARREST?! THESE CHARGES ARE TOTALLY FALSE!!!
I'VE SACRIFICED LOVE ALL THESE YEARS FOR THIS?!!
FSSHH
WELL, YOU ARE COMMITTING THE CRIME OF DESTROYING OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS...

NOW LET'S GO TO BED!!
Urk...
HEY, JING! KIND OF HARD TO WORK WITH A BASKET CASE LIKE HER AROUND...
YEAH... SHOULD WE KNOCK HER OUT FOR A WHILE?
Hah hah hah.
GOOD NIGHT!
I'M GOING TO SLEEP! THAT'S WHAT I ALWAYS DO WHEN I'M STRESSED OUT!
.....
ズン ズン

Law's like love.
Law is the wisdom of the ancients--the impotent grandfathers shrilly scolding.
Law is the sensibility of the young.

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!! HOW COULD I BE IN LOVE?!!

Others say, law is our Fate...



HOW CAN THE TEST BE POSITIVE?!

POSITIVE?!

POSITIVE?!

Others say, law is our State...

HUH?!

Others say, others say...

J-JING! WHY IS HE HERE?

Like love, I say...

...like love, we don't know where or why... like love, we can't compel or fly... like love, we often weeeeeeeeep...
like love...
!!?
JING...!!
JING... I... I AM...
...we seldom keep...

WHAT A STRANGE RECORDER.
Law's like love. Law, say the gardeners in the sun, law is the one.
J-JING... THUMP♡
SSPP
TH-TH-TH-THOSE ARE DISGUISED RECORDERS!
THESE ARE GREAT! LOOK AT ALL OF THEM!
What are they?
!

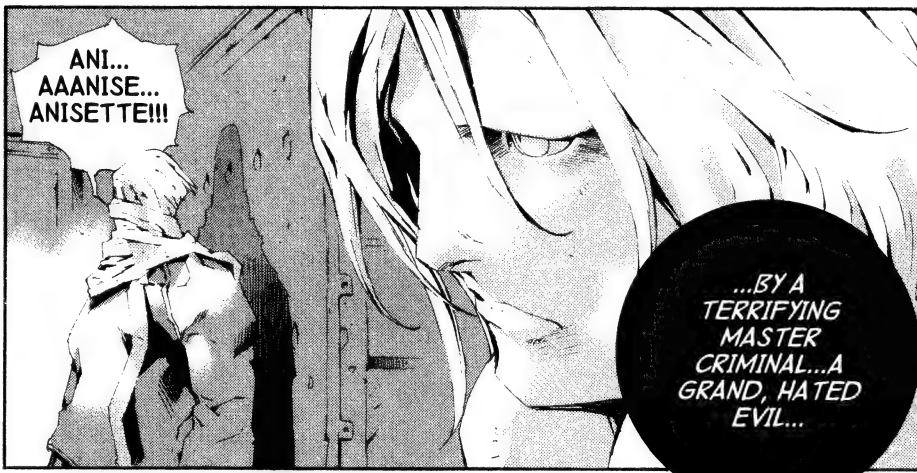
IN ORDER FOR ILLEGAL LOVERS TO LISTEN TO THEIR LOVE SONGS WITHOUT BEING CAUGHT...
...THEY CREATE THESE SECRET RECORDERS MADE TO LOOK LIKE TOYS AND EVERYDAY ITEMS.
THIS IS JUST A PORTION OF WHAT'S BEEN CONFISCATED-- MOST OF THEM HAVE BEEN DESTROYED ALREADY.

Like love, we don't know where or why...
Like love, we can't compel or fly...
Like love, we often weep...
Like love...

...we seldom keep...
...THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER LISTENED TO THE SONG.
Kkkk-king... of--kingof bbbbb-ban... bandddittt... bandits!!!

HE SERIOUSLY PLANS TO STEAL THE PARFAIT D'AMOUR?!!
THE KING OF BANDITS?! THE ACCOMPLICE IS THE KING OF BANDITS?!
STEAL THE PARFAIT D'AMOUR? I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS KING OF BANDITS IS, BUT...
WHA?!
...HE MAKES SOME ODD DECLARATIONS... BUT UNFORTUNATELY...

...IT'S ALREADY BEEN STOLEN... LITTLE BY LITTLE, BUT WITHOUT A DOUBT...

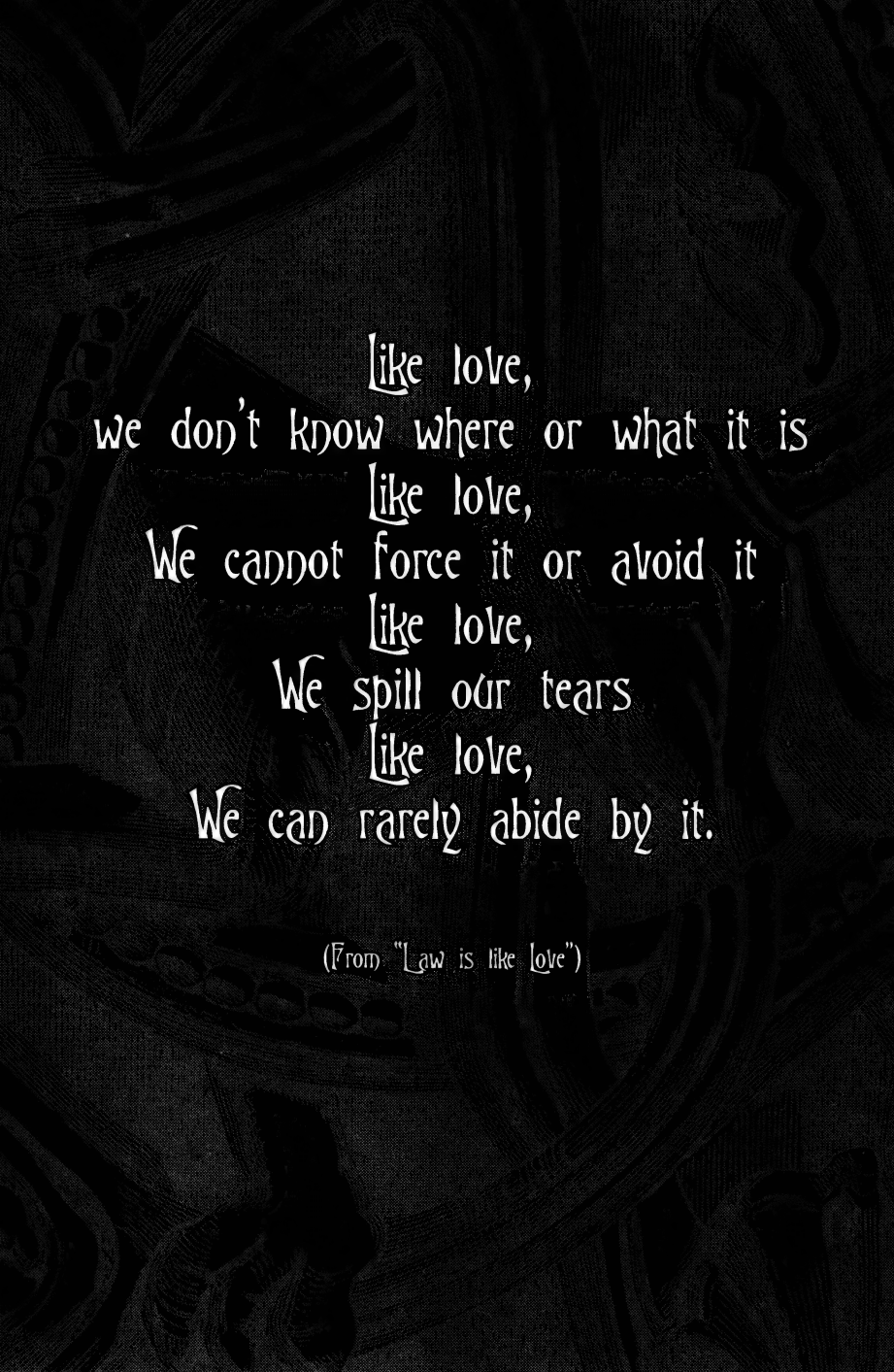

ANI... AAANISE... ANISETTE!!!
...BY A TERRIFYING MASTER CRIMINAL...A GRAND, HATED EVIL...

WE HAVE TO MOVE THE COLLECTED TAXES INTO THE GREAT SAFE, GOT THAT?!
HEY, YOU LEFT THIS BIG SACK JUST SITTING HERE!
THIS THING'S BIG ENOUGH TO FIT A PERSON...

THIS IS GREAT! WHO KNEW MONEY WAS SO WARM?
UH...
HUH ?!!
TH-TH-THE WANTED TAX EVADER! I'VE FOUND HIM!!

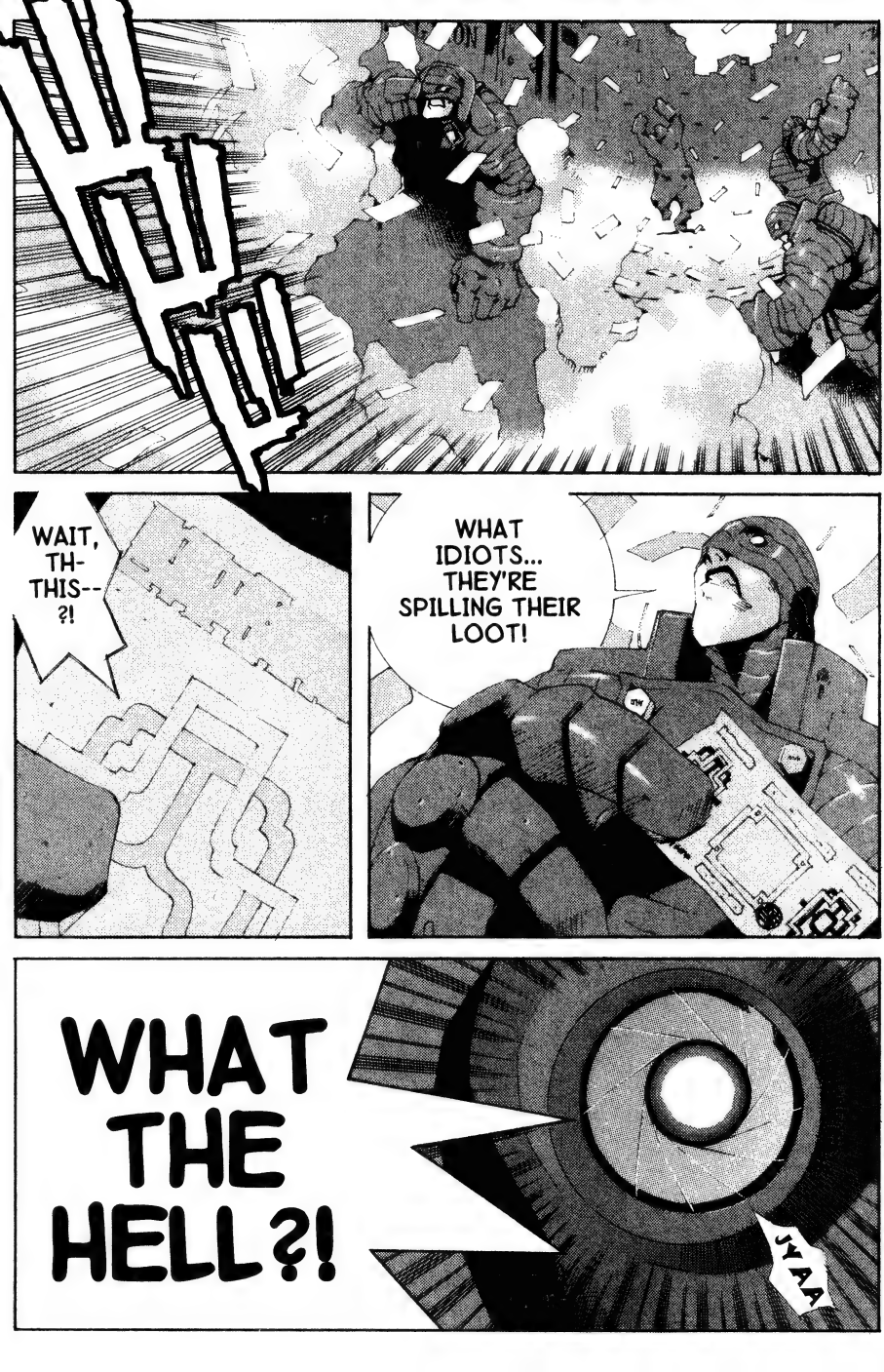
WHERE?! WHERE?!
WHERE?! WHERE?!!
THERE!!
TALK ABOUT WASTING SOME GOOD MONEY!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU, KIR.

Crime of Passion - END



Like love,
we don't know where or what it is
Like love,
We cannot force it or avoid it
Like love,
We spill our tears
Like love,
We can rarely abide by it.

(From "Law is like Love")


WAIT, TH-THIS--?!
WHAT IDIOTS... THEY'RE SPILLING THEIR LOOT!
WHAT THE HELL?!
JYAA

Let's meet under the moulin rouge at sunset.

RECOVER EVERY SINGLE BILL!! EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM!
KEEP SUCKING 'TIL YOUR BELLY BURSTS!
CLICK CLICK
THESE ARE THE LOVE CERTIFICATES WE'VE COLLECTED THROUGH THE TAX!

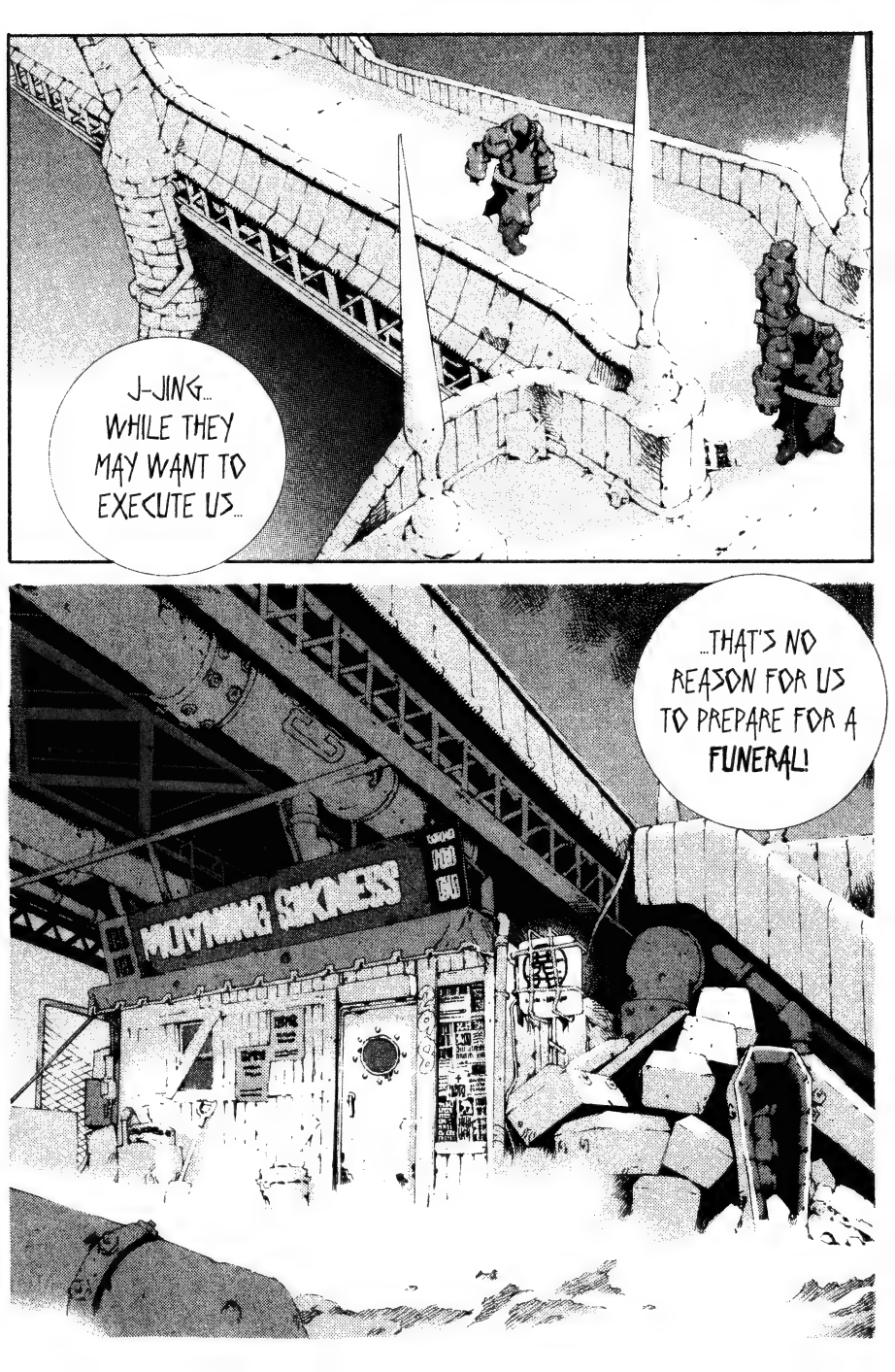
THESE MAY BE CLUES TO SOLVING THE TAX CRIME OF THE CENTURY!
REMEMBER WHAT THOSE GUYS DID TO OUR COMRADE!
GRRRAHE!
OUR POOR COMRADE... JET 27 IS...

A-A-AAAAA-
ANISETTE!!!!!!!
ハイ
JET
27!!
THIS IS THE MOST HEINOUS CRIME OF ALL! THIS CALLS FOR THE DEATH PENALTY!

YOU DID SOMETHING WHILE I WAS ASLEEP, DIDN'T YOU?!
How dare you?!
Well... You were sleeping...
SKLP
WHOA!
...I'LL BE CHARGED AS AN ACCOMPLICE!!
IF YOU'RE CAUGHT NOW...
mmmmmmMmmmmm moourir d...d'aimer
mourir d'aimer.....!!!
OHHH, DYING FOR LOVE...

IT'S JUST LIKE THE PROMISE I MADE TO VIOLET SO LONG AGO...
"LET'S MEET UNDER THE MOULIN...AT SUNSET..."
HEE HEE... KING OF BANDITS... STOLE A SHARD OF MY MEMORY, DID YOU?
ANYWAY... ONCE YOU'RE CAUGHT, IT WILL ALL BE OVER.

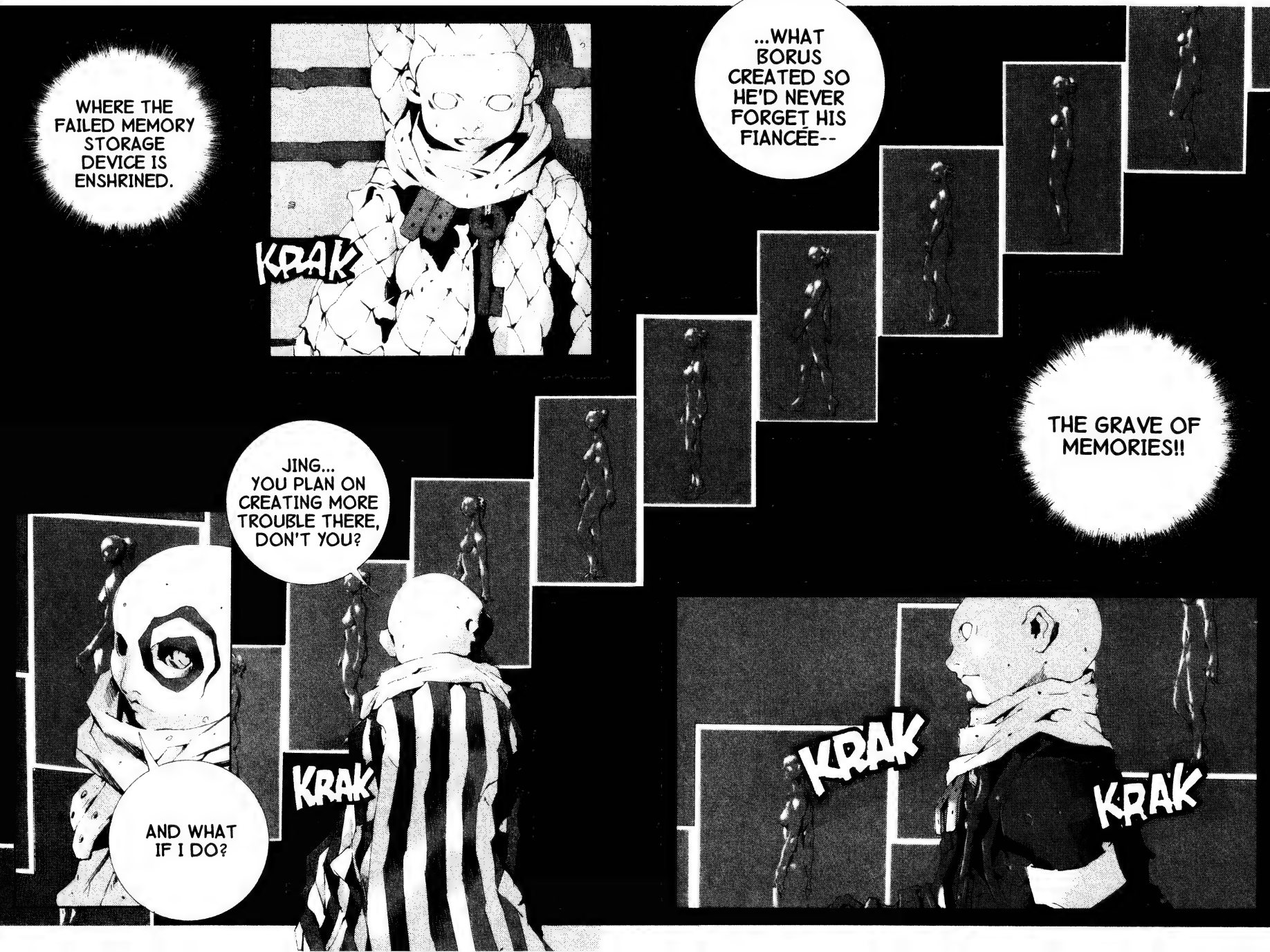
HOWEVER...
...WHO CAN NEVER BE CAUGHT!!
...THERE IS ONE...


J-JING... WHILE THEY MAY WANT TO EXECUTE US...
...THAT'S NO REASON FOR US TO PREPARE FOR A FUNERAL!
MOVING SICKNESS

NOTHING BETTER THAN A CEMETERY. You know?
SHEP
YOU'RE NOT GETTING ME IN ANY HOLES... URGH!
GAHH!
I FIGURED IT MIGHT BE FUN TO DIG OUR OWN GRAVE FOR A CHANGE!
♫ Oh, the gravedigger's ♪ the chap you'd better not kill... ♫
MORNING SICKNESS

...or else when you die, your body will...
SLAM!!!
...be left sitting there in the rain...

NOT SOMEONE, BUT SOMETHING. ACTUALLY...
POP
HEY... WHY SHOULD I HELP BURY SOMEONE I DON'T EVEN KNOW?
♪ Stop wand'rin' ♬ from graveyard to graveyard... ♬
...WHAT'S BEING GUARDED IN THIS GRAVE-YARD IS...


WHERE THE FAILED MEMORY STORAGE DEVICE IS ENSHRINED.
KRAK
...WHAT BORUS CREATED SO HE'D NEVER FORGET HIS FIANCÉE--
THE GRAVE OF MEMORIES!!
JING... YOU PLAN ON CREATING MORE TROUBLE THERE, DON'T YOU?
KRAK
AND WHAT IF I DO?
KRAK
KRAK

I'LL SCREAM UNTIL PEOPLE COME!
UH... HUH?
WE'RE NOT PEOPLE, BUT MAYBE WE CAN HELP?

TH-THANKS, THEN... SINCE YOU GUYS ARE THE EXPERTS...

...IS GIVE YOU GUYS A NICE BURIAL.

THOUGH THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO...

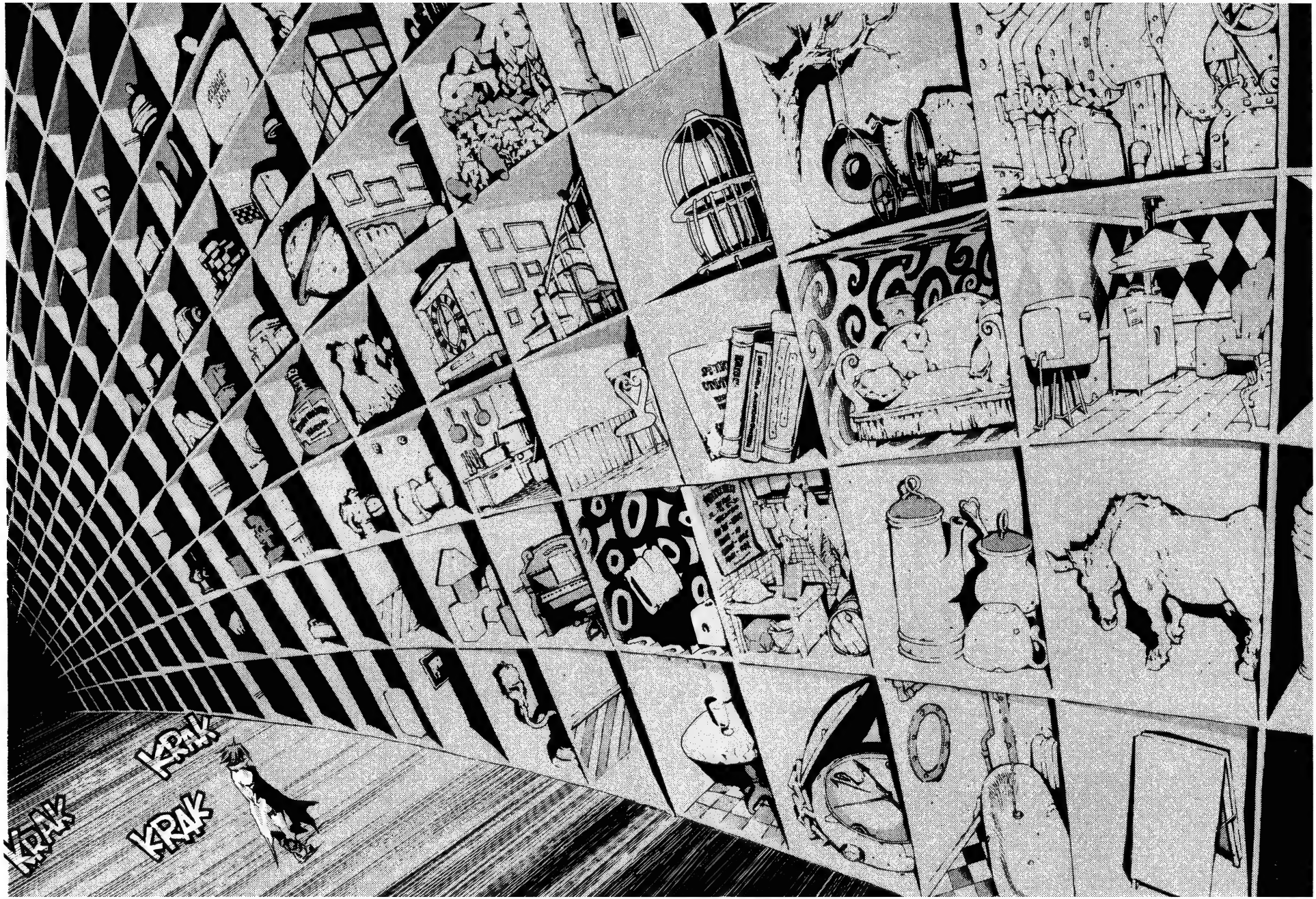
ONE THING I NEED BURIED...

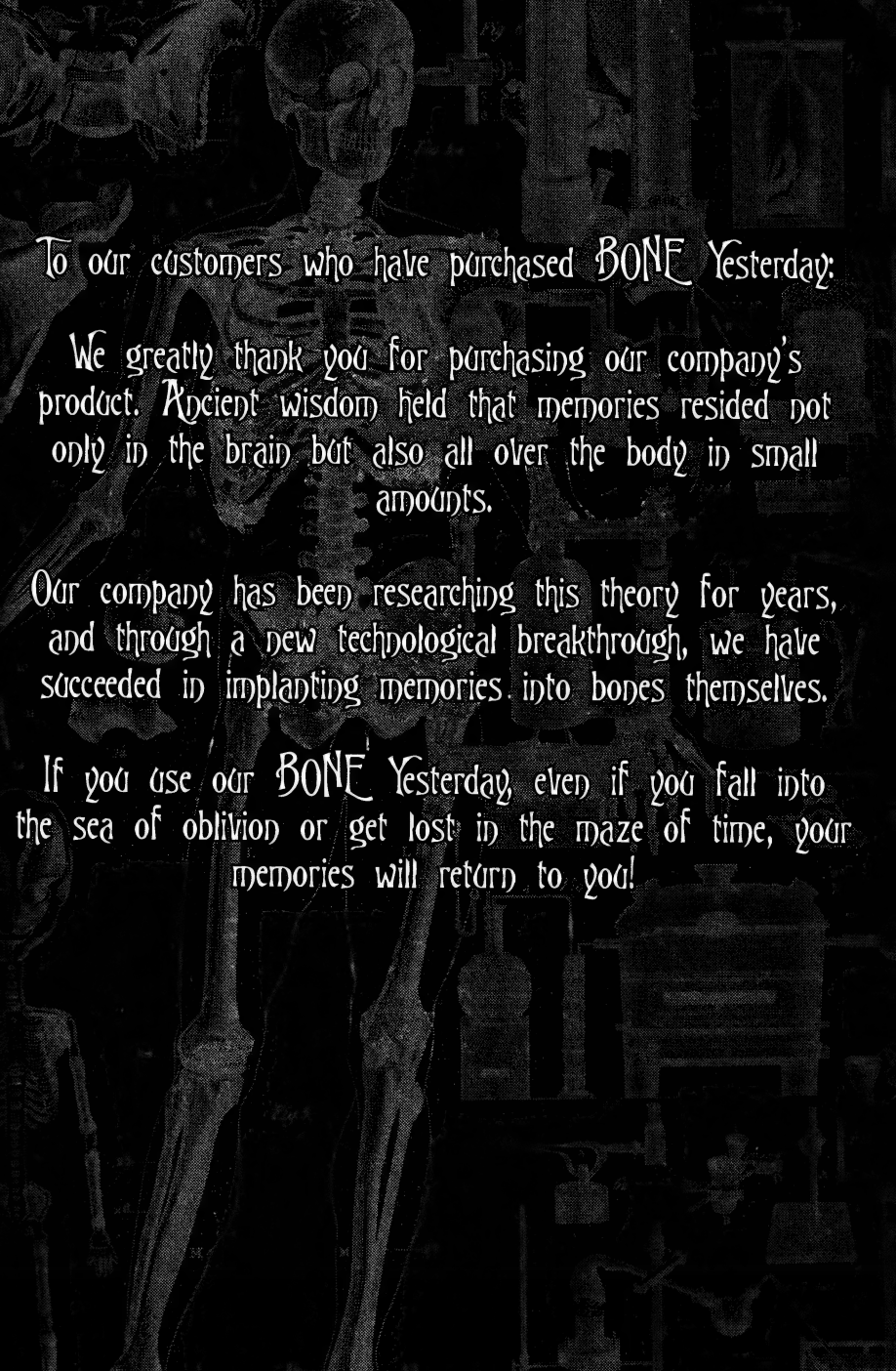
Okay...
...IS YOUR MEMORIES OF SEEING US DOWN HERE!
I DOUBT YOUR SCREAMING WOULD BE ABLE TO ATTRACT MORE ATTENTION THAN THAT...

I'M GUESSING THEY SHOULD BE ON THEIR WAY NOW.
a lot of them.
ASSEMBLE EVERYONE!!

THE TAX EVADER AND HIS GANG ARE...
...DOWN IN THE LOWEST SECTOR OF THE PARFAIT D'AMOUR!
THE SUSPECT IS SO INSANE WITH LOVE THAT HE EVEN DESTROYED THE SPRITZ HOUSE.
ALL WE TAX AGENTS MUST WORK TOGETHER TO PROTECT THIS CITY'S TREASURE!

WAS THIS YOUR HOUSE KEY?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
KRAK
KRAK
HEY, THEY'RE STILL COMING AFTER US!!
...AND WE MAY OPEN THE GATE TO HELL!
WE USED THE WRONG ONE...
OH...IT OPENED!


KRAK
KRAK
KRAK

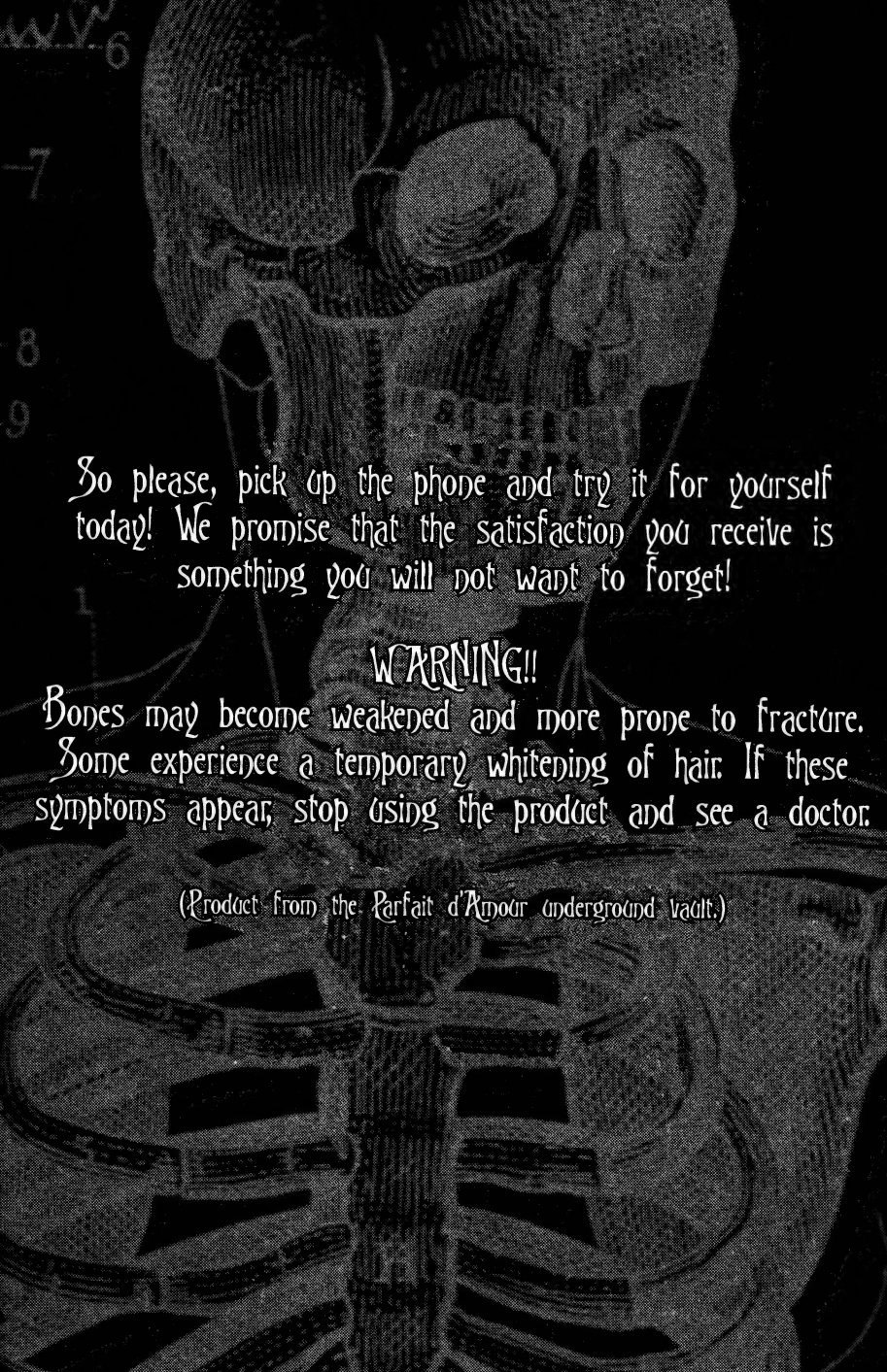


To our customers who have purchased BONE Yesterday:

We greatly thank you for purchasing our company's product. Ancient wisdom held that memories resided not only in the brain but also all over the body in small amounts.

Our company has been researching this theory for years, and through a new technological breakthrough, we have succeeded in implanting memories into bones themselves.

If you use our BONE Yesterday, even if you fall into the sea of oblivion or get lost in the maze of time, your memories will return to you!



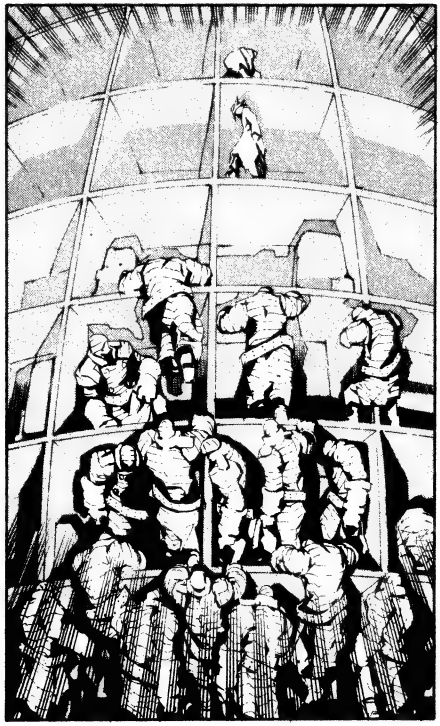
So please, pick up the phone and try it for yourself today! We promise that the satisfaction you receive is something you will not want to forget!

WARNING!!

Bones may become weakened and more prone to fracture. Some experience a temporary whitening of hair. If these symptoms appear, stop using the product and see a doctor.

(Product from the Parfait d'Amour underground vault.)

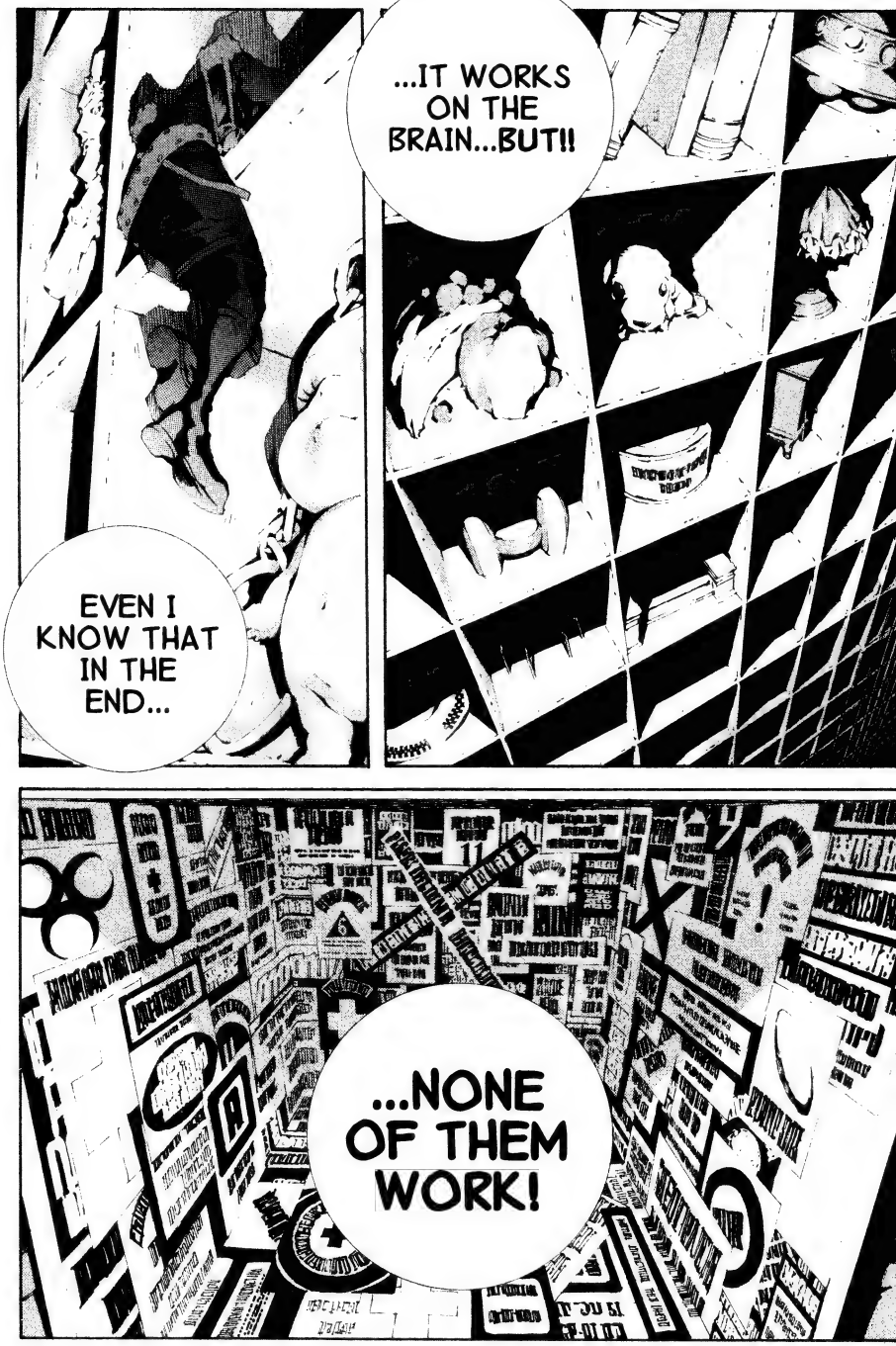
...AND WE MAY BE JOINING THEM IN A FEW SECONDS...
KRAK KRAK
THIS IS WHERE MEMORIES LIVE?
YEAH... THOUGH THESE RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN DEAD FOR MANY YEARS...
HNUP
WELL, THEN... LET'S KEEP CLIMBING...
HEY, MAN, CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG?!
MORE ENEMIES FROM THAT DIRECTION, TOO!!



...UP TO THE HEAVENS WHERE THE SUPREME LOVE AWAITS!
Well, to the surface at least...

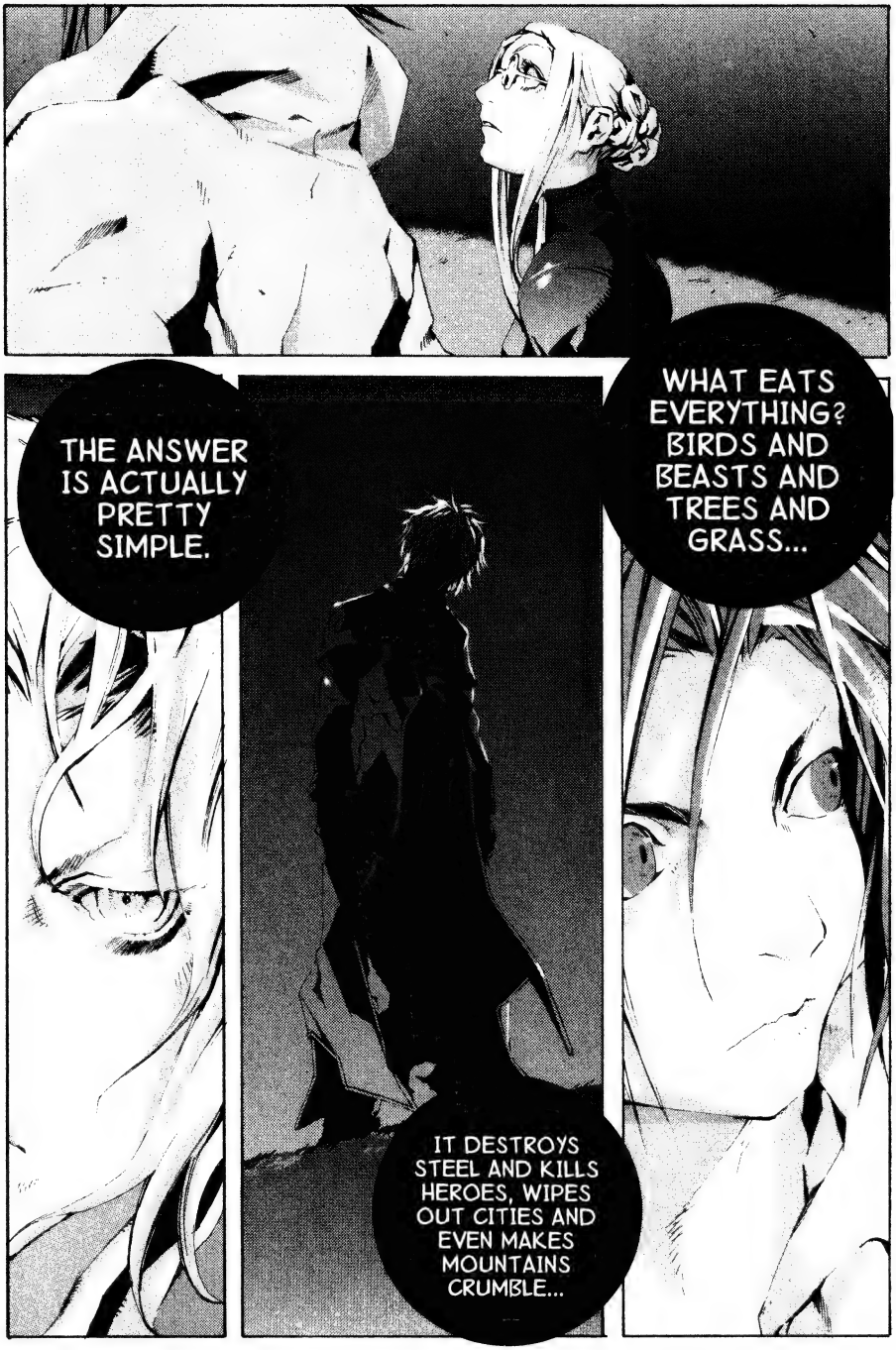
A MEMORY STORAGE DEVICE? THIS, TOO?!

YEAH... USING TECHNOLOGIES AND THEORIES FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD...
...BORUS ASSEMBLED EVERYTHING THAT CAN MAKE PEOPLE FORGET.
COME ON!
NOBODY KNOWS EXACTLY HOW...


...IT WORKS ON THE BRAIN...BUT!!
EVEN I KNOW THAT IN THE END...
...NONE OF THEM WORK!

SO IT'S HARD WORK FOR WEAK PEOPLE TO GET CLOSE TO LOVE, EH?
BUT THIS IS A PIECE OF CAKE FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME WHO LIVES ONLY FOR LOVE!

CLAK
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG, KIR? USED UP ALL YOUR LOVE YET?
WHOA!
THE ONE TO FIND LOVE FIRST IS ALWAYS...
...ME, Y'KNOW?
HUFF HUFF
I'VE HAD ENOUGH!! THIS LOVE STUFF IS WEARING ME OUT!!


WHAT EATS EVERYTHING? BIRDS AND BEASTS AND TREES AND GRASS...
THE ANSWER IS ACTUALLY PRETTY SIMPLE.
IT DESTROYS STEEL AND KILLS HEROES, WIPES OUT CITIES AND EVEN MAKES MOUNTAINS CRUMBLE...

IMPRESSIVE YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY...
LIFE IS NOTHING BUT FORGETTING THINGS OVER AND OVER. MAN'S MOST IMPORTANT JOB MAY BE TO FORGET.
...SO, YOU'RE THE FAMOUS KING OF BANDITS.
BUT SOMEONE'S ALREADY BEEN HERE--YOU COULD SAY HE'S IN THE SAME LINE OF WORK AS YOU...

I WISH I COULD INTRODUCE HIM TO YOU, BUT I DON'T KNOW HIS NAME OR WHEREABOUTS.
A-ANISETTE... ANISS...ETTE!!!
HE TOOK EVERYTHING PRECIOUS TO ME.
NO MATTER WHO I ASK, EVERYONE ONLY WHISPERS HIS TITLE.
THE ULTIMATE EVIL WHO EATS AWAY EVERYTHING...

THE CRIMINAL KNOWN AS TIME!!
Bon brooooouillard...
b-bon brouillard!!!!

IT IS SUCH A NICE DAY FOR ONE.
I HEARD THERE WAS GOING TO BE A MASS HERE.
KID, THANKS FOR THE INVITE.
I AND EVERYONE IN THE CITY RECEIVED ONE.

♪♪
Like love we don't kn
Where or why

EXIT

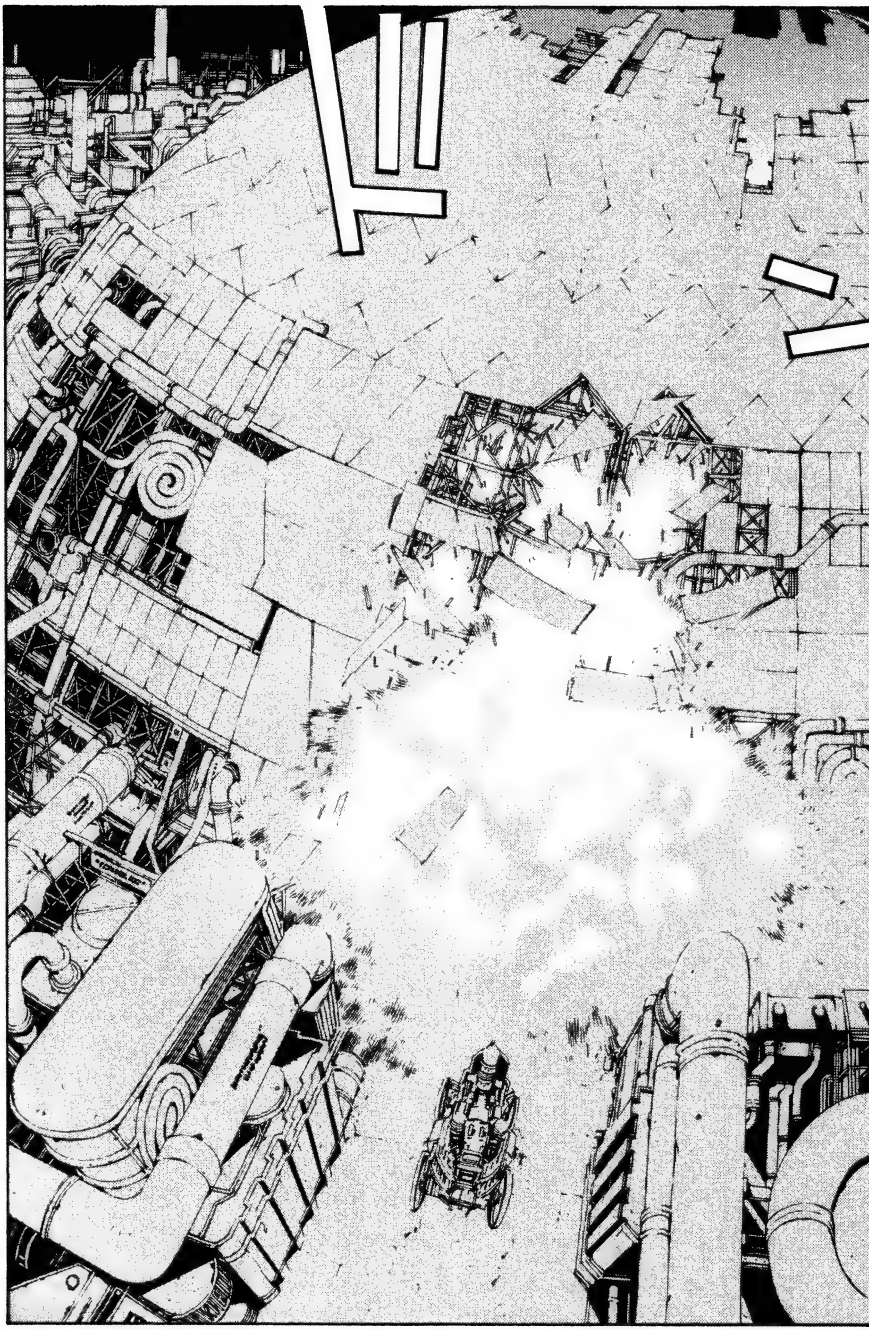
!!?
Turncoat!
MIND IF WE JOIN YOU, KING OF BANDITS?!
WE'LL TAKE YOU TO A CONVENT AFTER THIS MASS!
SHOO!
SHOO!
SHOO!
EEYAAAAH!!!
!!!!!?

AAAAAAAAANI
SEEEEEEEEEEE
EETT TE!!!

HE DESTROYED THE OTHER TAX COLLECTORS?
A-Anisette... Ani...Ani...
SORRY, BUT I HAVE PEOPLE WAITING ON ME OUTSIDE.
I CAN'T LEAVE THEM DISAPPOINTED.

I'M BORROWING YOUR VACUUM!
HYU
KIIIIIIIII IIIIIIIIII IIIIIIR...

...ROYAAALE!!!



The Answer to the Riddle - END

According to a coastal island legend entitled "The Red Hair of The Lazy One," the much-needed wind that powered the farmers' windmills was created by the snores of a sleeping red-haired giant.

The long hair of the giant would stretch across the land turning the hills and woods and fields red, and the red windmill would turn slowly as the giant snored.

This scene at sunset is the signature image of this region and represents fertility and life itself.

(From monthly magazine "Chemical Club")

28th SHOT - The Wind of Time

CRAAACK

bon brouillard !!
llard...!!!
bbbon...brouillard
bon brouillard !!
.....bon
brouillard !!
bon brouillard !
bon brouillard
!!!!!!!!!!!
WWW
WWW
WW

bon....brouillard..!!!
TONIGHT'S MASS LOOKS LIKE IT WILL BE A GREAT SUCCESS!
bon brouillard !!!
bon brouillard
...bon brouillard !!
PLUS THE CHURCH IS FINALLY BACK AT ITS OLD HOME.
bon brouillard !!!
bon brouillard..
THE WHOLE CITY HAS ASSEMBLED...
....bon brouillard
bon brouillard !!

bon brouillard !!!
bon brouillard !!!!
bon brouillard !!!
bonbrouillard!!!
ALL IN RESPONSE TO YOUR INVITATION!
EVERYONE.... YOU SAY...?
EVERYONE...
EVERYONE IS HERE!
bon brouillard !!!
bon brouillard !!!
bon brouillard !!!

EVEN IF EVERYONE IN THE CITY-- EVERYONE IN THE WORLD WERE TO ASSEMBLE HERE...
SKSH
SKSH
SKSH
SKSH
...VIOLET STILL WOULDN'T BE HERE.
WHAT ABOUT THE ONE I MOST WANT TO BE HERE--WHAT ABOUT VIOLET?!

L-LAMB?!
EEEK!
JUST LIKE THIS BURNED AND DEAD WINDMILL!
EVENTUALLY, EVERYTHING WILL CEASE AND THEN CRUMBLE.
U-ugh...
JING!!
HMM... THAT'S ODD...
I DID INVITE EVERY-ONE...

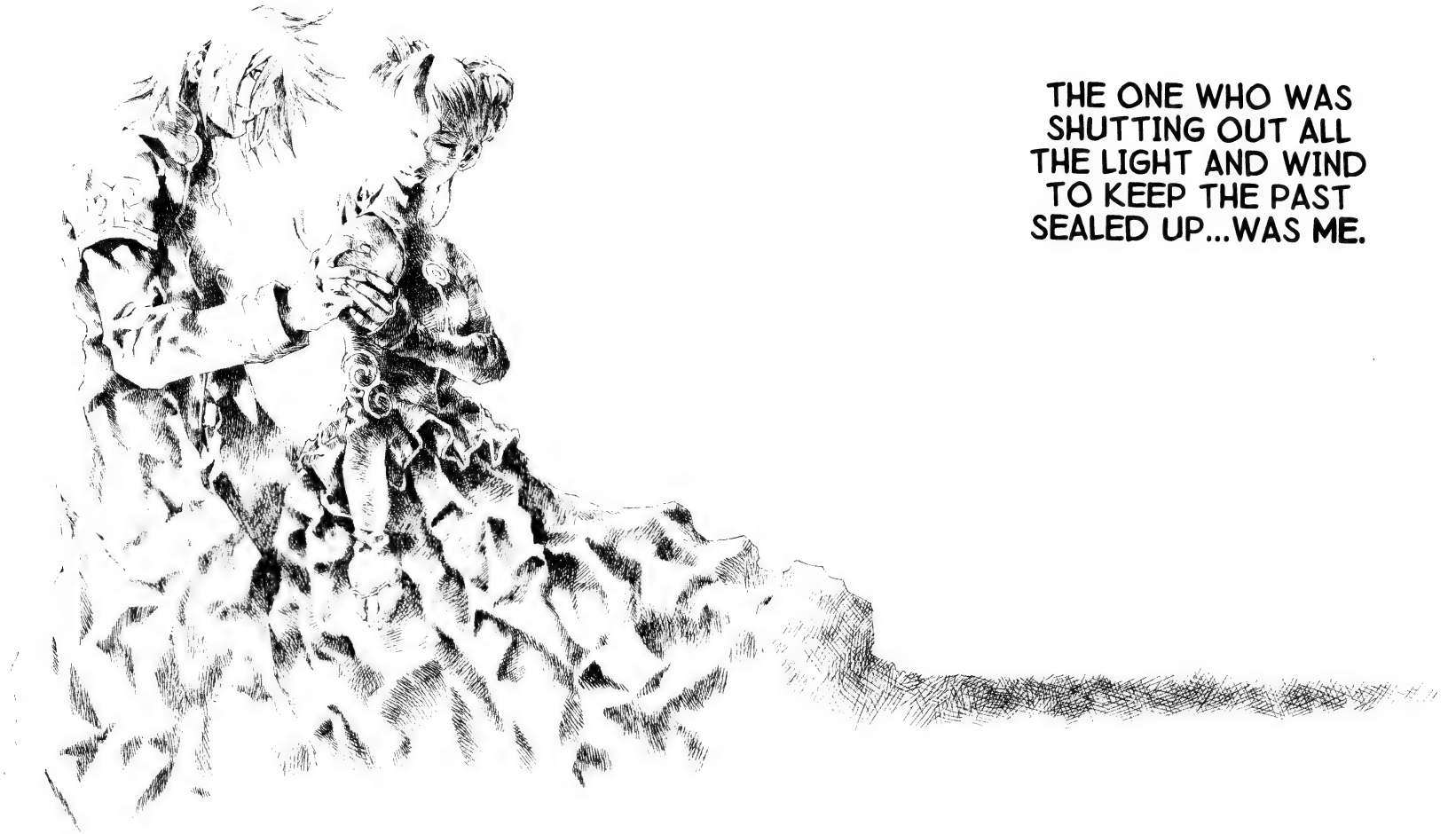
TAKE A LISTEN...
THIS SOUND'S...
YEAH...
THAT'S RIGHT.
LOOK.
IT'S THE SOUND...
...OF THAT WINDMILL.
...THAT SOUND WAS ALWAYS IN THE BACKGROUND.
WHEN VIOLET AND I WOULD MEET...
A SLOW, BUT...
...STRONG SOUND.
THIS WIND...

IT'S SPINNING THE CRUMBLING WINDMILL...
THIS WIND...
I SEE, IT'S THE WIND FROM OUTSIDE...
THAT...
IT'S JUST LIKE BACK THEN. THE TIME I'VE TRIED TO FORGET...
THAT SUNSET THAT FELT LIKE IT WOULD GO ON FOREVER, AND...

...THAT RED WINDMILL!!

……
……
……

A SINGLE SOUND CAN TOUCH THE HARDEST HEART MORE PROFOUNDLY THAN A BRILLIANTLY CONSTRUCTED MEMORY MACHINE...
SKSH
HUMANS ARE TRULY MYSTERIOUS CREATURES...
...THAT SOUND...
BOTH FOLLOWING AND LEADING ON OUR OWN HEARTBEATS...
...VIOLET...
YES... YOU'RE RIGHT...
...HAS BEEN THERE ALL ALONG...
IS SOMEONE THERE?
?
?
?


THE ONE WHO WAS SHUTTING OUT ALL THE LIGHT AND WIND TO KEEP THE PAST SEALED UP...WAS ME.

AS A WINDMILL SPINS WITH THE WIND...

BORNE ON THE WIND OF TIME, THEY EVENTUALLY RETURN.

THEY DON'T VANISH, BUT CYCLE ETERNALLY...

...SO ALSO DO PEOPLE'S EMOTIONS GO ROUND AND ROUND.

SO I SHALL WAIT--FOR THAT TIME... FOR THAT WIND...
...WITH A HOPEFUL HEART...FREE TO FEEL AGAIN...
...UNTIL THE DAY WHEN THE CYCLE TURNS FULL CIRCLE.
SO UNTIL THAT TIME... GOODBYE.

The Wind of Time - END

29th SHOT - The First and Last Question

...I...I-I'LL...I'LL PAY YOU!!!
!!!

I AM IN LOVE WITH HER!
UH... O-OFFICER ANISETTE...
M-MY TAXES-- I'LL PAY THEM!

SO LET ME PAY...

...THE LOVE TAX!

CRUMPLE

WH--GAH!

JET 27... THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT ANYMORE!!

...THE LOVE TAX IS ABOLISHED!!
FROM THIS MOMENT ON...

O-OOO-
OOOOO-
OOOOOOO
O-OO...
WUOOOO
OUUUUUUO
OOOOWU
UUUUU...
WUOO
OOO
...
...JING...
JING!!!

JING'S GONE!

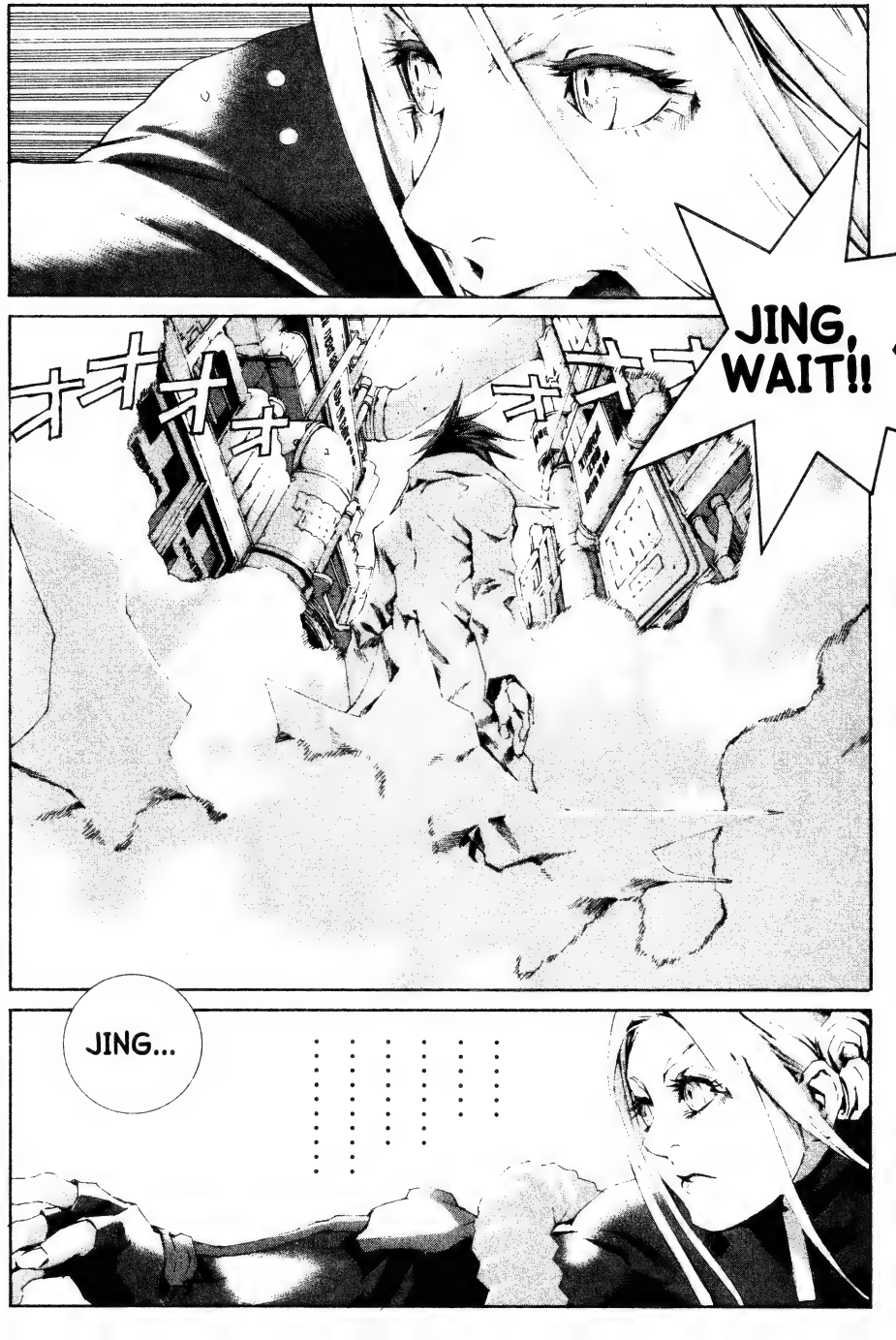
LOW TAR AND NICOTINE CHARCOAL FILTER

LOOKS LIKE THE WHOLE CITY'S POPULATION IS REALLY GOING TO THE WINDMILL.

DON'T MOVE, YOU TAX EVADER!!
...EXCEPT FOR ONE PERSON...
HUH? BUT THE TAX WAS ABOLISHED...
THAT MAY BE, BUT YOU'VE COMMITTED TONS OF OTHER CRIMES, TOO!!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET AWAY WITH IT!
TH-TH-THAT'S...

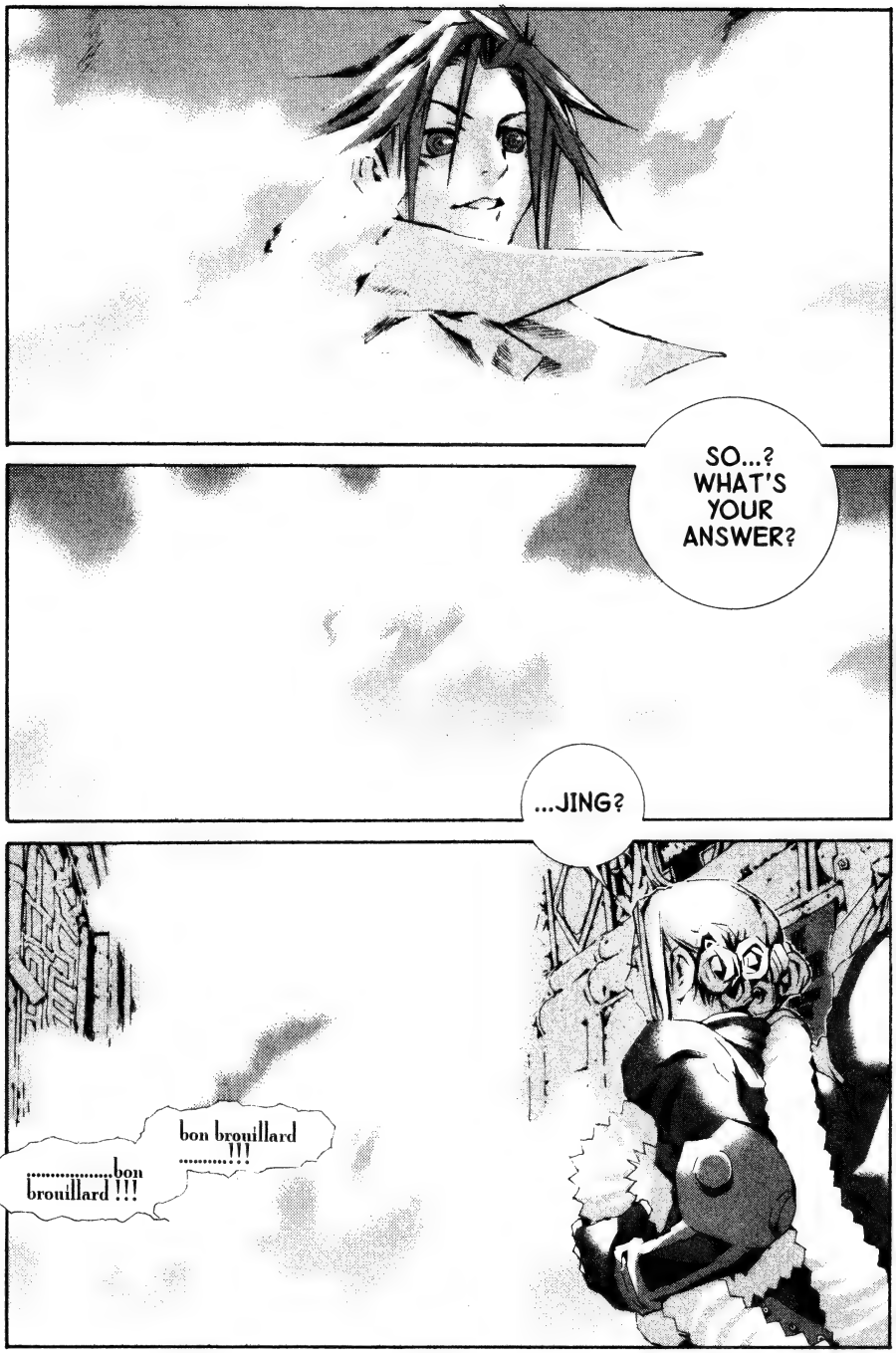
YOU CAN SPEND YOUR REMAINING YEARS IN JAIL THINKING ABOUT ALL YOUR CRIMES!
!?
JET 27...?!!
AN--

ANISETTE!!!!!!
S-S-S-STOP, JET 27!!
A-ANI... ANISETTE...
NO! HE'S --!!
GAGAN

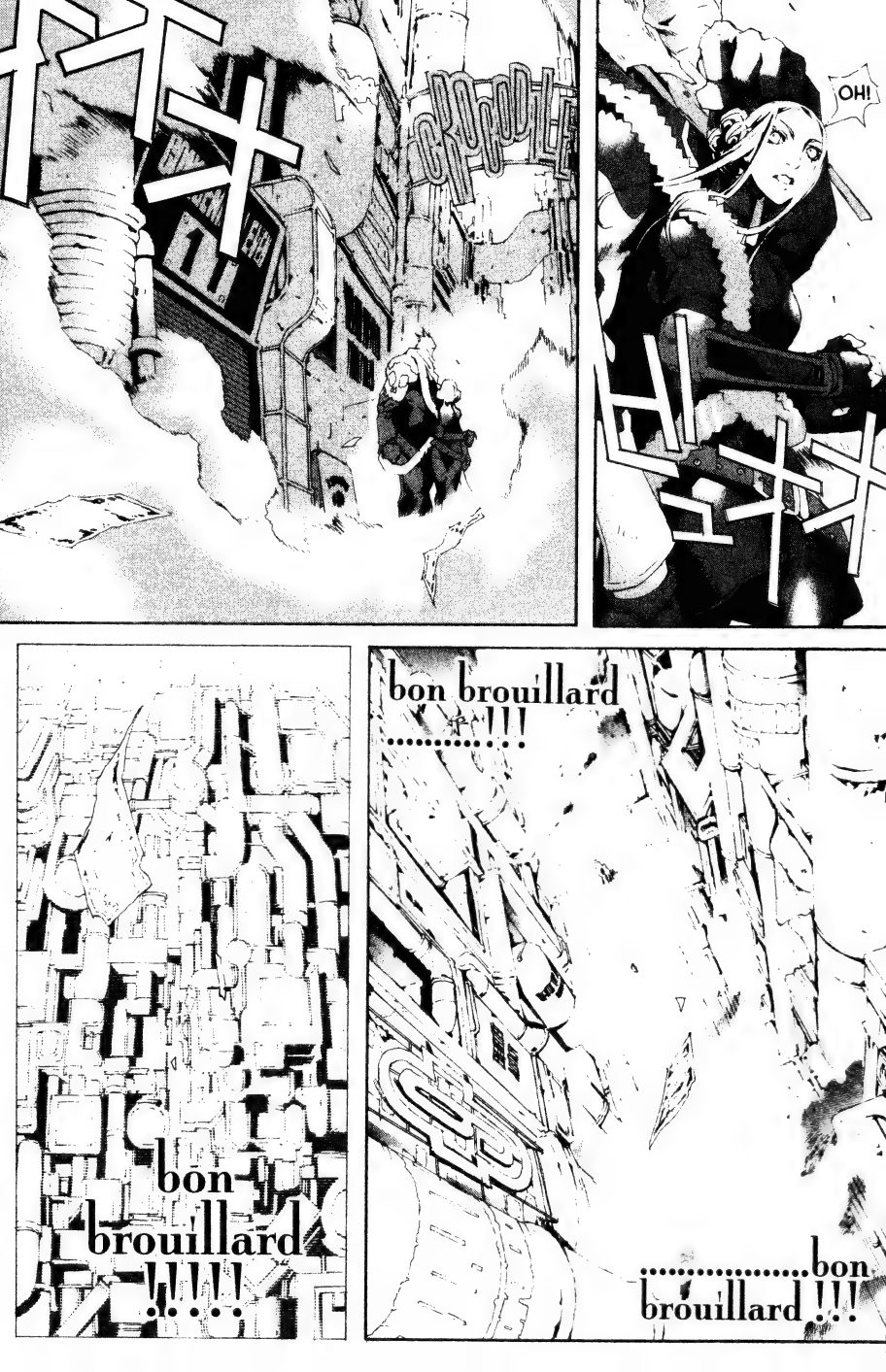

JING, WAIT!!
JING...

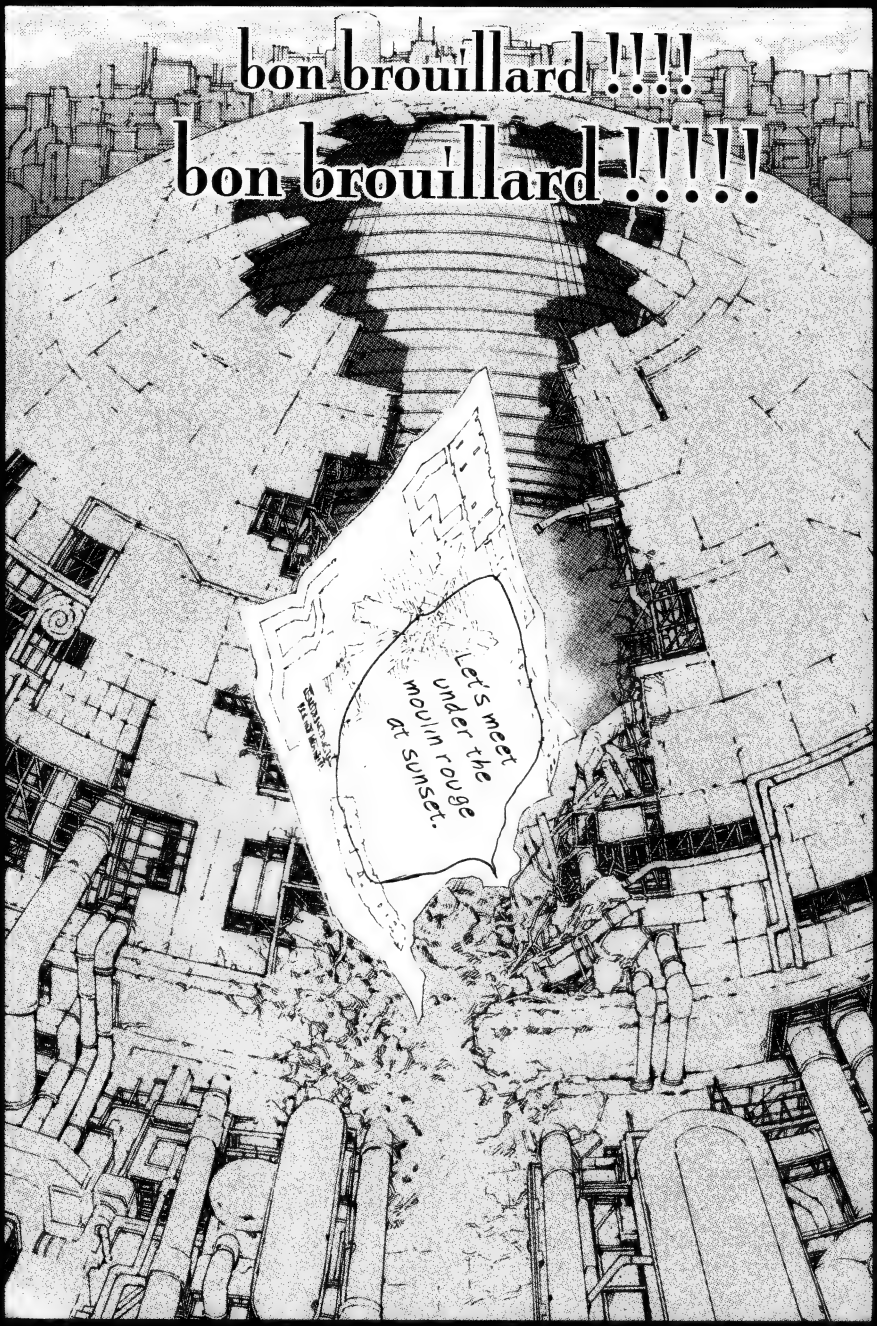
JEEZ... CAN'T YOU AT LEAST LET ME DO MY JOB?
YOU DIDN'T EVEN ANSWER A SINGLE ONE OF MY QUESTIONS...

ARE YOU CURRENTLY IN A ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITE SEX?


SO...? WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER?
...JING?
bon brouillard .....!!!
.....bon brouillard !!!

bon brouillard !!!!!!!!!
.....bon.. brouillard !!!!
bon brouillard !!!!!!!!!
!!!
bon brouillard !!!!
bon brouillard !!!!!!!!
bon brouillard !!!!!!!!
. . . . . .
FLAP


OH!
bon brouillard .....!!!
.....bon brouillard!!!
bon brouillard !!!!!


bon brouillard !!!!
bon brouillard !!!!!
Let's meet under the moulin rouge at sunset.

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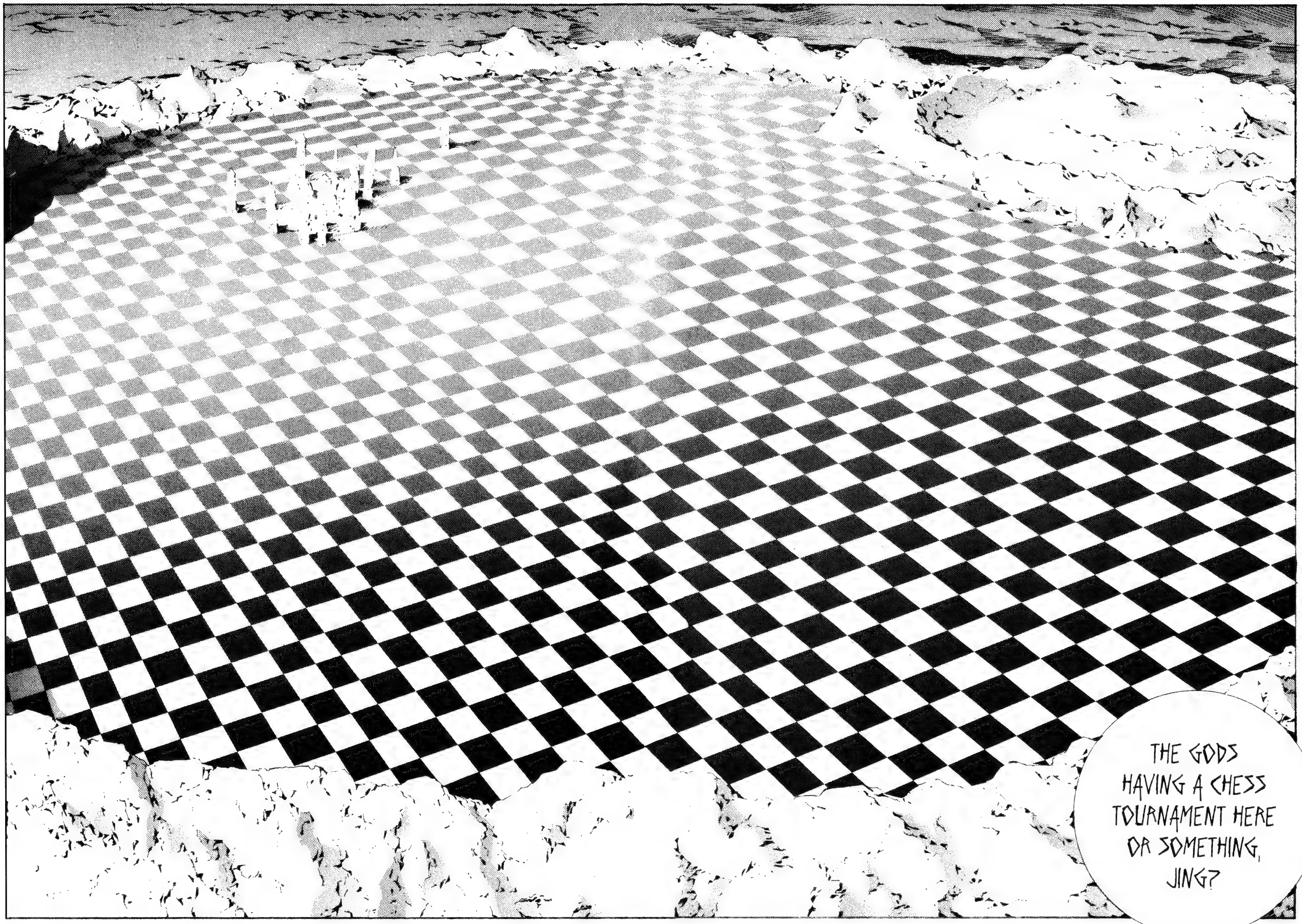
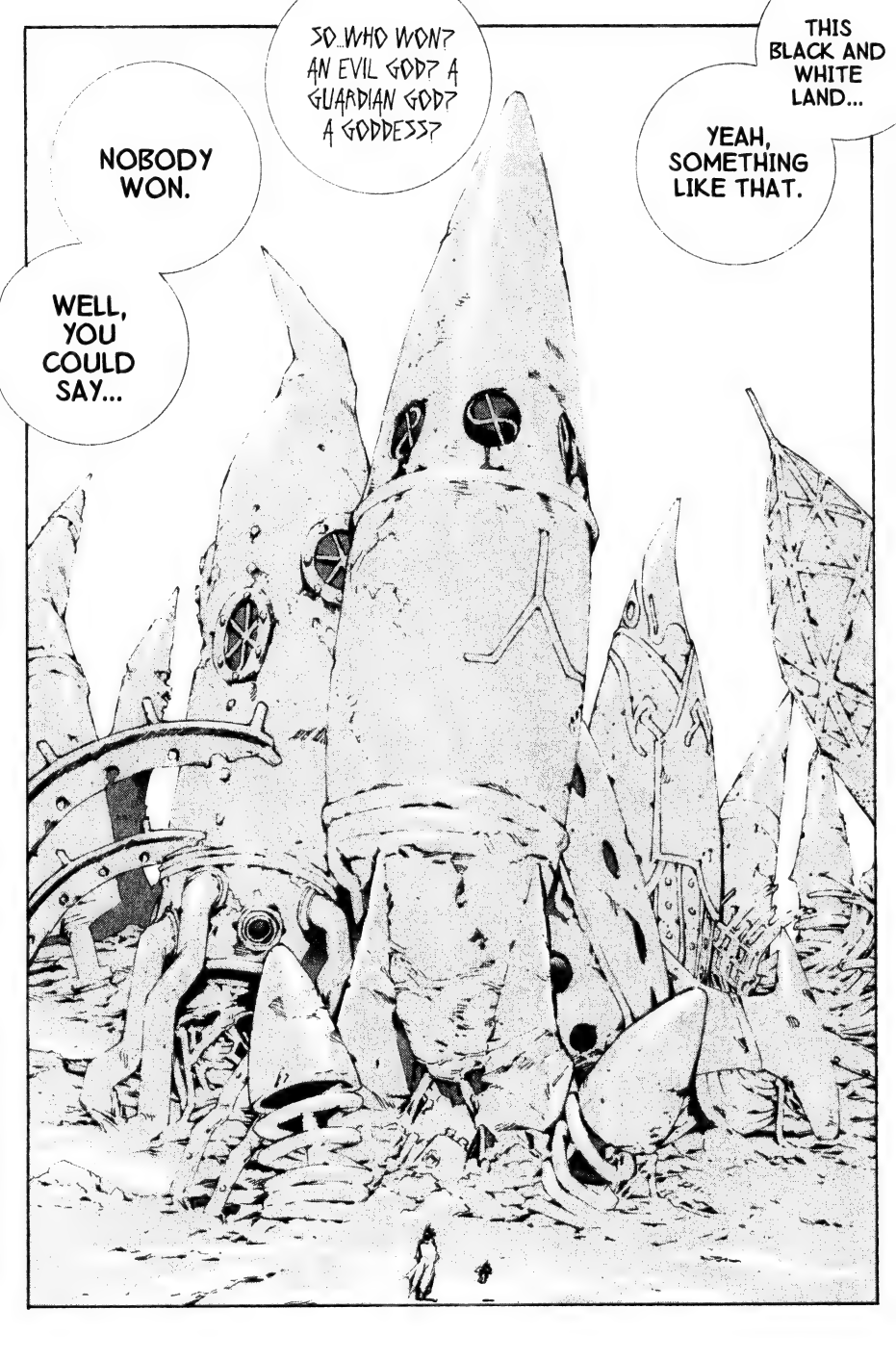

THE GODS HAVING A CHESS TOURNAMENT HERE OR SOMETHING, JING?


SO...WHO WON? AN EVIL GOD? A GUARDIAN GOD? A GODDESS?
THIS BLACK AND WHITE LAND...
NOBODY WON.
YEAH, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
WELL, YOU COULD SAY...

...THE LAND ITSELF WAS CHECKMATED.
STOP WITH THE GRAY ANSWERS!
CLANK
GIVE IT TO ME IN BLACK AND WHITE!!
THIS PLACE SURE HAS CHANGED...
HEY, JING!!
.....

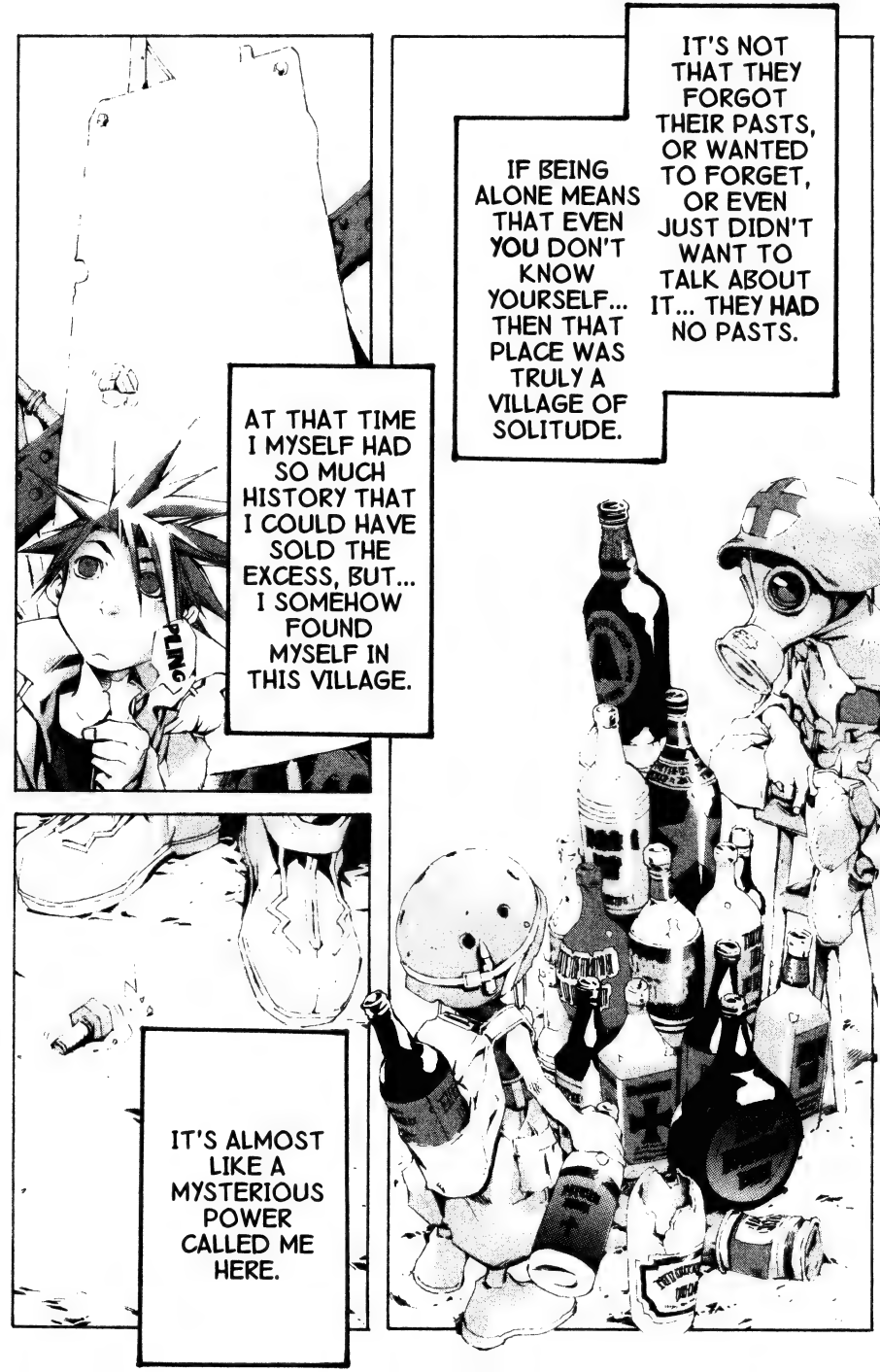
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? WHAT'S CHANGED?!
!
PLUS ALL THESE ROCKETS ARE...
FOUND IT!
YOU'RE MAKING ME COME UP BLANK AS A WHITE PIECE OF PAPER!
JING, ONCE THE SUN GOES DOWN THIS PLACE WON'T BE BLACK AND WHITE ANYMORE--IT'LL ALL BE PITCH BLACK...

HEY, JING... THIS IS...
THERE USED TO BE A TOWN HERE.
...I CAME TO THIS VILLAGE...
THIS WAS BEFORE I MET YOU. RIGHT AFTER I SPLIT UP WITH MY MOTHER...

THE VILLAGE CALLED THE NEW ALCOHOL BOTTLE CITY.

THE VILLAGE WAS CALLED THAT...
...BECAUSE IN THE SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS...
kigi gi...
...BOTTLES OF ALCOHOL WERE CONSTANTLY BEING DUG UP FROM THE GROUND-- LIKE DIGGING FOR JEWELS...
KNIGHT
19
...AND STRANGELY, THE PEOPLE WHO WOULD COME TO THIS VILLAGE...

...WERE ALL LIKE BOTTLED ALCOHOL...
...AS IF THEY'D NEVER BEEN AGED IN A BARREL, BUT INSTEAD WERE SUDDENLY BORN INTO A CLEAR BOTTLE.
PEOPLE WITH NO PAST...


AT THAT TIME I MYSELF HAD SO MUCH HISTORY THAT I COULD HAVE SOLD THE EXCESS, BUT... I SOMEHOW FOUND MYSELF IN THIS VILLAGE.
PLING
IT'S ALMOST LIKE A MYSTERIOUS POWER CALLED ME HERE.
IF BEING ALONE MEANS THAT EVEN YOU DON'T KNOW YOURSELF... THEN THAT PLACE WAS TRULY A VILLAGE OF SOLITUDE.
IT'S NOT THAT THEY FORGOT THEIR PASTS, OR WANTED TO FORGET, OR EVEN JUST DIDN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT... THEY HAD NO PASTS.

BROKERS DEALING IN EVERY KIND OF MEMENTO.
MEMENTO WHOLESALERS.
ANYWAY, THIS WAS THE KIND OF PLACE THAT HAD PEOPLE SELLING ALL SORTS OF STRANGE THINGS.
PEOPLE WHO WOULD TELL YOU WHICH DIRECTION TO GO-- DIRECTORS.

THOSE WHO WOULD DRAW YOU FROM YOUR PREVIOUS LIFE--
THOSE WHO DELIVER OLD NEWS THAT NOBODY CARES ABOUT--OLD NEWSPAPER DELIVERERS.
WOMEN WHO HAVE ACCESSORIES AND OUTFITS FROM ALL THE FESTIVALS IN THE WORLD--
PAST-LIFE PORTRAIT ARTISTS.

FESTIVAL GIRLS!
IN A VILLAGE WITH ALL THESE STRANGE BUSINESSES...
...I MET THIS MAN.
HEY, WAIT!
OH...

TMP
OHH!
OH... HELLO...
kikiki giki !
WE MEET AGAIN.
UGH

OH... HELLO TO YOU, TOO!
U-UMM...
IS THAT YOUR BIRD?

I HEAR IT'S A VERY SOUTHERN COUNTRY...
UH... YOU HEAR?
YEAH... THIS IS A BIRD FROM MY COUNTRY!
I JUST BOUGHT IT HERE TODAY, SO I DON'T KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT IT YET...

IMPOSSIBLE
Southern Comfort
...IS ITS NAME.
BUT SOUTHERN COMFORT...
BUT WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO WITH A BIG THING LIKE A COUNTRY?
IT'S A GOOD COUNTRY. YES, NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT...

Kai ...♥

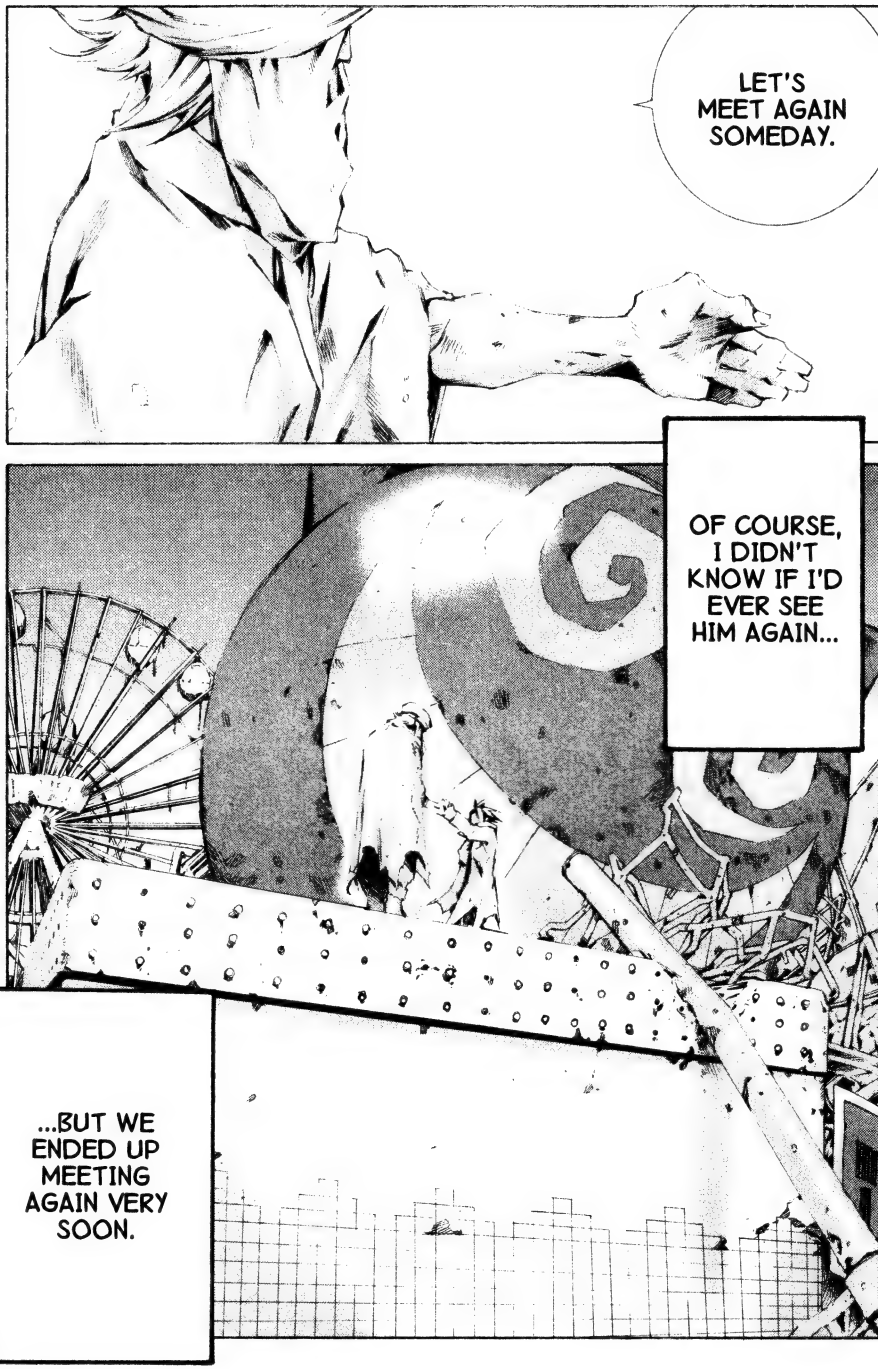
I'M GOING TO BE HAPPY THERE... WITH MY FAMILY, OF COURSE!

TO BUY IT...I SOLD EVERYTHING I HAD.

THAT WASN'T A LIE...

FOR ONE...I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO CALL THIS MAN.

HE'D SOLD EVEN HIS NAME.
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
AAAAHH!
HA HA HA! YOU'VE GOT SOME FUNNY STORIES, KID!


LET'S MEET AGAIN SOMEDAY.
OF COURSE, I DIDN'T KNOW IF I'D EVER SEE HIM AGAIN...
...BUT WE ENDED UP MEETING AGAIN VERY SOON.

...I COULD TELL IT WAS ALL A SCAM.

BZZT
AND THAT THERE WAS NO SUCH THING...
...AS A COUNTRY CALLED SOUTHERN COMFORT.

WELCOME HOME!
PUNI
PUNI
WHAT A CUTE CUSTOMER! AND WE'VE GOT JUST THE PERFECT COUNTRY FOR YOU IN STOCK!
TOYLAND! CANDYLAND!
ABOUT ONE CALLED SOUTHERN COMFORT...
OH YEAH.

SO! WHAT DO YOU THINK?!
PLOP
HOW ABOUT A COUNTRY WITH A BEAUTIFUL OCEAN?!
ひょん
...OH?

YOU'RE NOT A BOTTLE BABY?!!
GUA!
GET TOO INVOLVED IN ADULT AFFAIRS...
HEY, THIS STORE IS FOR SELLING DREAMS TO INNOCENT BOTTLE BABIES.
bottle baby OOOOOOonly!!!!
you`er too clever!!!
WE'VE GOT NO NEED FOR CLEVER, SMARTASS LOST CHILDREN LIKE YOU.

WELL, EITHER WAY... HUH?!
...SOLD OFF TO SOME FOREIGN COUNTRY!
...AND YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF...
Freeze!!!
UGH!

Kiii..!!

I TRIED TO CALL THE MAN'S NAME, BUT THEN I REALIZED I DIDN'T KNOW IT!

DOWN to earth!!!

HIDE AND SEEK ISN'T THAT FUN ON SUCH A SMALL PLANET!

YEAH!

I THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO COUNT THEM ALL TONIGHT...

1098097011409251

KING OF SOUTHERN COMFORT!!!
SO I CALLED HIM THE ONLY THING I COULD THINK OF...
HEY! TURN THAT LIGHT ON OVER THERE!!
Right light!!
1 2 3

KING!!
KING OF SOUTHERN COMFORT!
KIIIING!!
KIIING OF SOOOUTHERN COOOOMFORT!
give me LiGHt !!!!!!

KING OF
SOUTHERN
COMFORT!

I-I'M NO KING...
PLEASE DON'T CALL ME THAT.
RUB RUB
PLUS...MY COUNTRY IS...
HEH... THAT'S REALLY KIND OF EMBARRASSING...

MIGHT NOT BE AS GOOD AS THE REAL THING, BUT...
HUH?
PAT PAT
...I BROUGHT YOU A SKY FULL OF STARS.
THE STARS HAVE GOT IT IN FOR YOU NOW, BRAT!

HEY, KID, BETTER PICK A GOOD STAR TO PRAY TO BEFORE YOU TAKE A DIVE!
'CAUSE SOONER OR LATER...
well, sooner...
...YOU'RE GONNA DIE AND BECOME A STAR!

OUCH!

WH-
WHAAAT?!

kiggi

THAAANK S!

DAMN
MECHANICAL
BIRD!

YOU'RE
SUPPOSED
TO BE
DECEIVING
THE
CUSTOMERS!

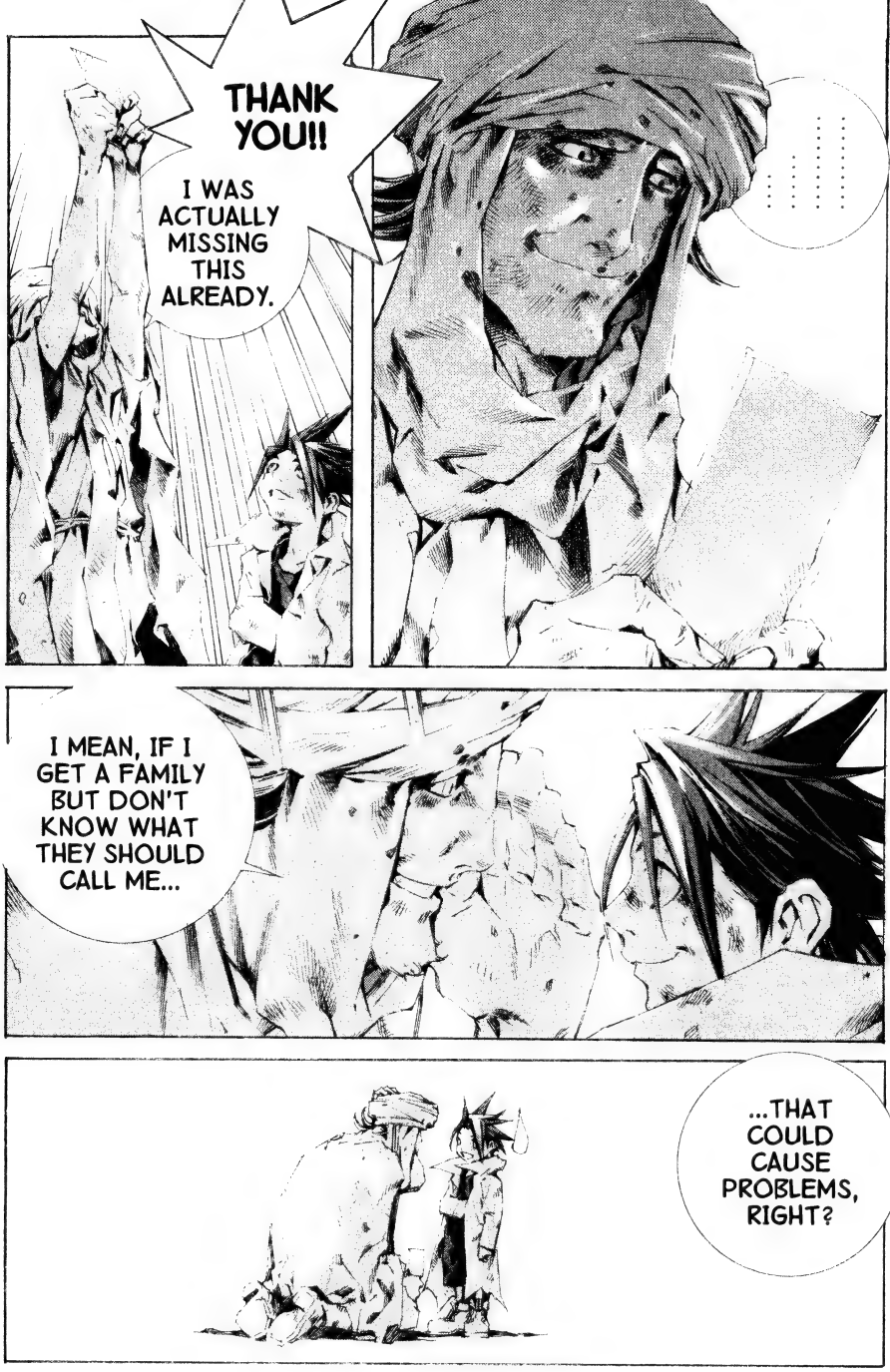
CUSTOMERS!

gi
gi
!!!

THE CUSTOMERS WHO THROW AWAY ALL THEIR BELONGINGS FOR A LAND THAT DOESN'T EVEN EXIST ON THIS SAD PLANET!
LOWLY CREATURES WHO DON'T EVEN HAVE A NAME TO CARVE ON THEIR TOMBSTONE!
WHA?!
SURE-- SELL ME A TOMBSTONE!
HEY, TINY, LET'S TALK BUSINESS...
I'LL TELL YOU RIGHT NOW THE NAME I WANT CARVED ON IT!

MY
NAME IS
JING!!

TAT
THIS ONE'S INK IS STILL WET...
I have sold my name
GLÖRG
THIS IS YOUR NAME, RIGHT, MISTER?
.....
!!
HE'S RETURNING IT TO YOU! ISN'T THAT SWEET?


THANK YOU!!
I WAS ACTUALLY MISSING THIS ALREADY.
.....
I MEAN, IF I GET A FAMILY BUT DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY SHOULD CALL ME...
...THAT COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS, RIGHT?

WELL, I NEED TO GET GOING.
I BET THE LITTLE GUY WANTS TO RETURN TO HIS HOMELAND, TOO.
YEAH!

PLEASE COME!
THEN AFTERWARD YOU CAN COME VISIT MY COUNTRY!
MEET ME HERE IN TEN YEARS, OKAY?! I'LL MAKE SURE TO COME.
I DIDN'T ASK HIM WHERE HE WAS GOING...
...SINCE HE WOULD HAVE OBVIOUSLY SAID "TO MY COUNTRY!"

AND THAT...
...WAS TEN YEARS AGO TO THIS DAY...

オオオ
THERE'S NO DOUBT! THAT GEEZER MUST HAVE GOTTEN LOST!
.....I SEE.....
I BET I CAN GUIDE HIM HERE BETTER THAN THE NORTH STAR!

HMM, DON'T SEE A QUEEN OR A KNIGHT OR A BISHOP... WHAT MAKES YOU THINK A KING WILL SHOW UP...
...IN A CRAZY BLACK AND WHITE WORLD LIKE THIS? HMMM, JING?!
WELL NOW, HOW ABOUT WE GET OUR ACCOUNTS SETTLED IN THE BLACK?
LET'S CONTINUE OUR BUSINESS FROM THAT DAY!
STEP

I'LL MAKE YOU YOUR TOMBSTONE... YOUR NAME WAS JING, WASN'T IT?
I THOUGHT I'D GOTTEN RID OF TRASH LIKE YOU LONG AGO...

ALL THE BOTTLE BABIES ARE STILL SEARCHING...
...SEARCHING FOREVER FOR THE COUNTRIES ON THEIR MAPS...
...UNLESS THEY'VE GIVEN UP AND DIED ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD BY NOW!
GASH!
EVEN YOUR DEAR OLD FRIEND--

THAT KING OF SOUTHERN COMFORT!
HEE HEE... THEY'VE ALL LEFT TO RETURN TO THE SOIL OF THIS PLANET...
...MEANING THEY'VE RETURNED TO WHERE THEY CAME FROM...
Heh.
GAKK..NNN!!
DASH!

YOU WON'T GET AWAY FROM ME THIS TIME!
WELL, THANKS TO IDIOTS LIKE THAT I GET TO GO HOME TO MY TRUE COUNTRY...
ANYWAY, MY BUSINESS IS DONE HERE, SO JUST TELL ME WHERE YOU WANT ME TO BURY YOUR BONES.
THAT MECHANICAL BIRD ISN'T AROUND TO SAVE YOU...
SHRRR
THERE'S A BIRD RIGHT HERE!!

N-NOT A B-BIRD!!

GRRR...

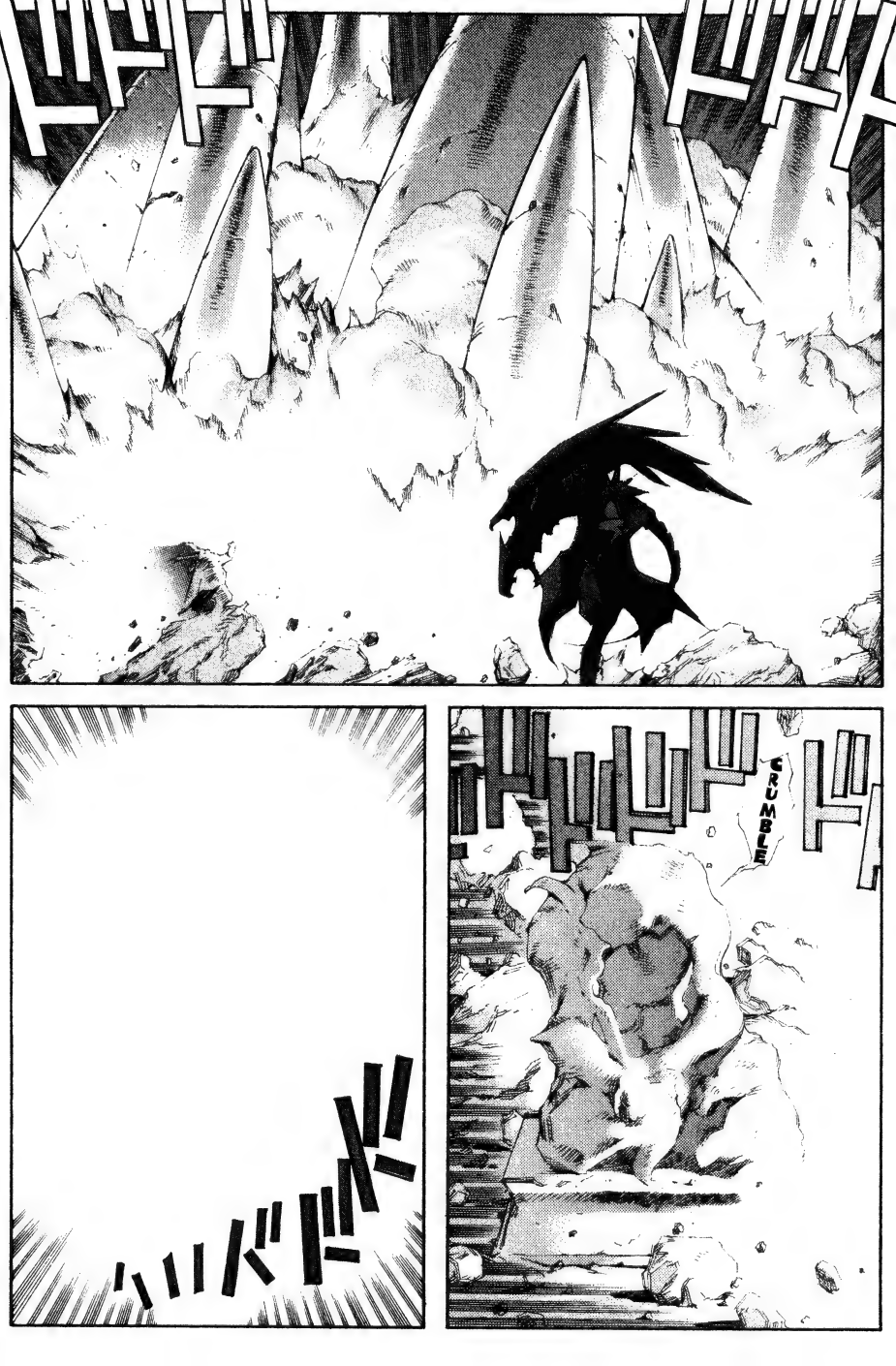
NO TRICKS UP MY SLEEVE...

...BUT I'M ONE HOT BIRD WITH AN EYE FOR THE LADIES!!

HEY... KIR!!
tick
tick
POOF
TH-THIEF!!
YUP... THAT'S RIGHT--I'M A BANDIT!
I didn't say that?
SO IF YOU WANT TO MAKE IT HOME...

...YOU'D BETTER TAKE OFF RIGHT NOW!
BEFORE SOMEONE STEALS YOUR LIFE.

NO!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! STOP!! STOP!!
AHH!!
AHH!!
AHH!!
AH
AHH!!
WHAT'S THIS?! NO!! I CAN'T GO YET!! AAAAAAAAH!!
HOT! HOT!
NOOO OOO!!

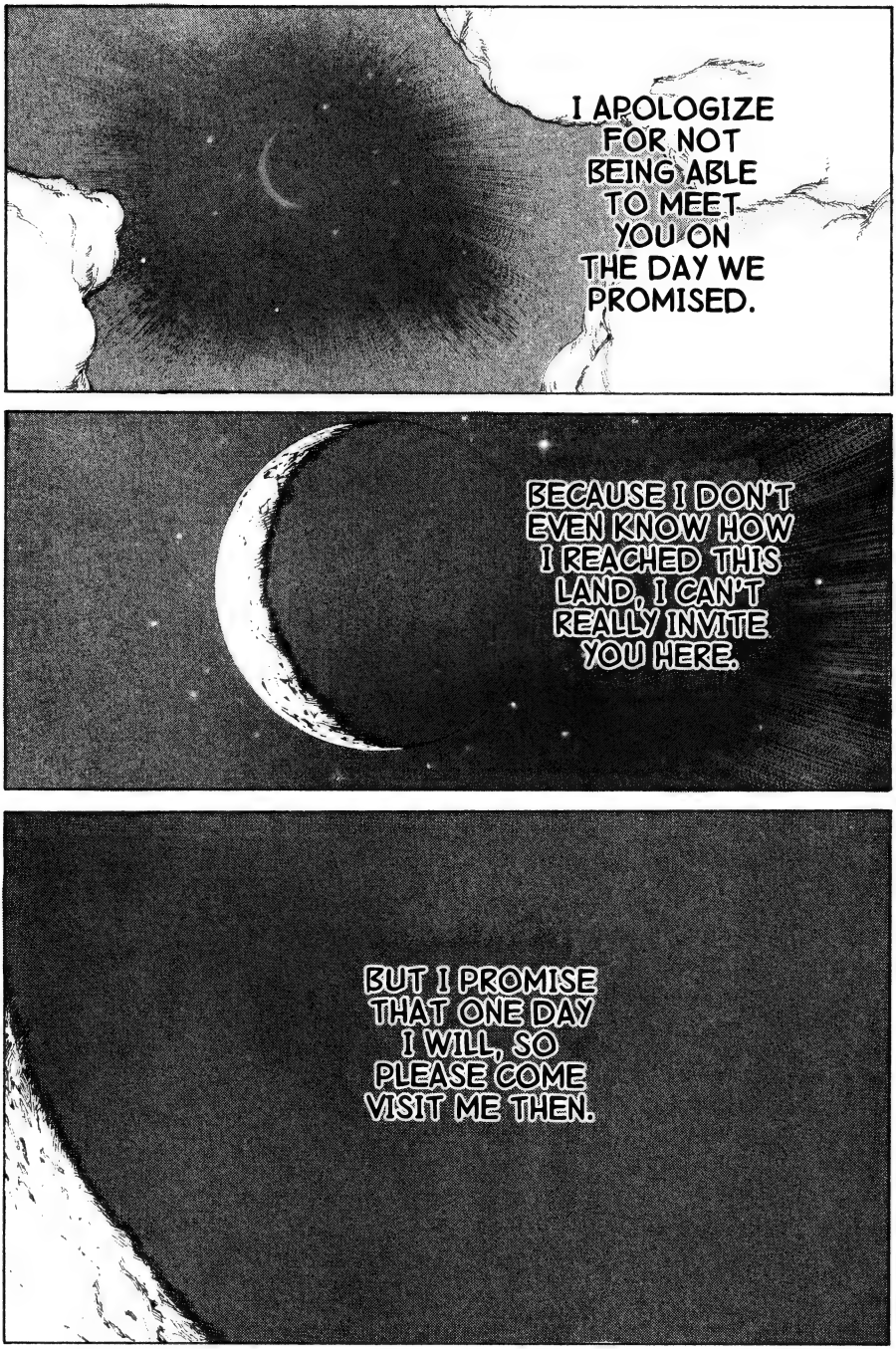

CRUMBLE

...HEY, KIR...
HMM...? WHAT?
LET'S...
...GO ALREADY.
HEY, BUT...
IT'S OKAY.

HE'S PROBABLY... ALREADY...
HEY, JING!!
!!!
SCREEECH
NICE FIREWORKS SHOW, JING!

I GOT A LETTER FOR YOU.
...POSTINO...
I WAS TOLD TO DELIVER IT HERE... TODAY.

HA HA HA... HE STOOD ME UP!
JING, WHAT?!
!!!
HE FOUND IT! HE FOUND IT! THE BARREL...
I AM UNFORTUNATELY UNABLE TO KEEP OUR APPOINTMENT DUE TO THE AMOUNT OF WORK NEEDED TO BE DONE IN MY COUNTRY...
THE MAGIC BARREL!


I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO MEET YOU ON THE DAY WE PROMISED.
BECAUSE I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW I REACHED THIS LAND, I CAN'T REALLY INVITE YOU HERE.
BUT I PROMISE THAT ONE DAY I WILL, SO PLEASE COME VISIT ME THEN.

PLEASE COME VISIT MY COUNTRY, SOUTHERN COMFORT.

KING OF BANDITS

王ドロボウJING

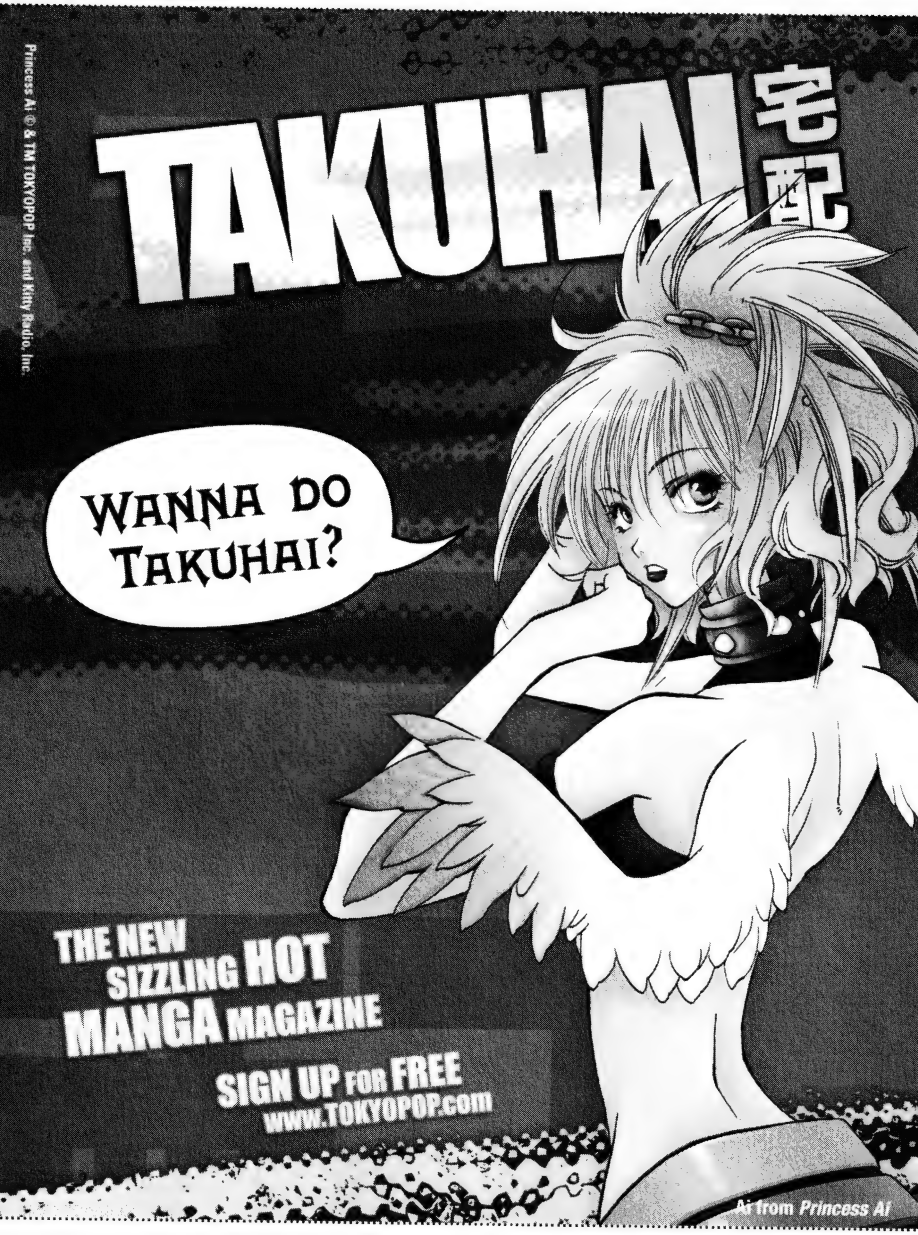
TWILIGHT TALES

Volume 6 Preview

EVERYONE IN THIS CITY THINKS SO HIGHLY OF THEMSELVES.
I DON'T SEE ONE WIDOW OR EVEN ANY SINGLE GIRLS
SCREW THE ULTIMATE INSTRUMENT! BRING ME A FINELY TUNED... GIRL!
NYOOM!
MERRY WIDOW? THEY SHOULD CALL THIS PLACE MERRY IDIOTS.

Welcome to Merry Widow, a strange town based around all things music. When Jing and Kir plot to steal a mysterious instrument known as the Invisible, they are all but thrilled to learn it can only be heard and not seen. Things wouldn't be so bad if Merry Widow wasn't filled with a cacophony of loud music. Things start looking up, however, when they run into Alize, a cute girl who's nothing but trouble. With revenge on her mind, Alize leads the duo on a deadly mission—and its final showdown could destroy the entire city!

IF YOU DON'T TOOT YOUR OWN HORN, JING...
...MAYBE ALIZE WILL TOOT IT FOR YOU!
Available December 2005!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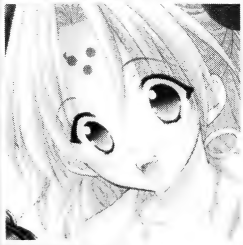
HOT NEWS!

Check out the TOKYOPOP SHOP! The world's best collection of manga in English is now available online in one place!

GIRLS BRAVO



RIZELMINE

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RIZELMINE © YUKIRU SUGISAKI / KADOKAWA SHOTEN.

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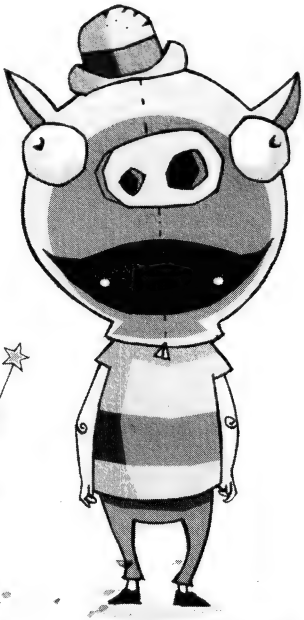
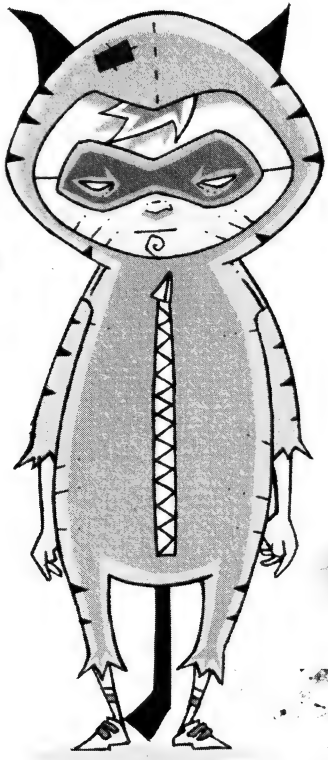
I LUV HALLOWEEN™

Written by Keith Giffen, comic book pro and English language adapter of *Battle Royale* and *Battle Vixens*.

Join the misadventures of a group of particularly disturbing trick-or-treaters as they go about their macabre business on Halloween night. Blaming the apples they got from the first house of the evening for the bad candy they've been receiving all night, the kids plot revenge on the old bag who handed out the funky fruit. Riotously funny and always wickedly shocking—who doesn't *love* Halloween?

OT
OLDER TEEN
AGE 16+





Preview the manga at:
www.TOKYOPOP.com/iluvhalloween

BY REIKO MOMOCHI

CONFIDENTIAL CONFESSIONS

If you're looking for a happy, rosy, zit-free look at high school life, skip this manga. But if you're jonesing for a real-life view of what high school's truly like, *Confidential Confessions* offers a gritty, unflinching look at what really happens in those hallowed halls. Rape, sexual harassment, anorexia, cutting, suicide...no subject is too hardcore for *Confidential Confessions*. While you're at it, don't expect a happy ending.

~Julie Taylor, Sr. Editor

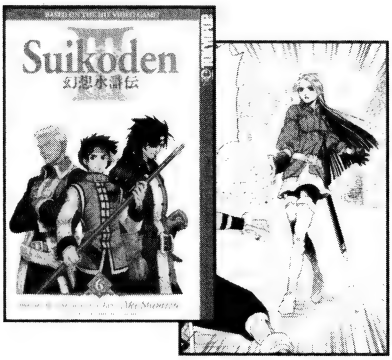
BY LEE SUN-HEE

NECK AND NECK

Competition can bring out the best or the worst in people...but in *Neck and Neck*, it does both! Dabin Choi and Shihu Myoung are both high school students, both children of mob bosses, and each is out to totally humiliate the other. Dabin and Shihu are very creative in their mutual tortures and there's more than a hint of romantic tension behind their attacks. This book's art may look somewhat shojo, but I found the story to be very accessible and very entertaining!

~Rob Tokar, Sr. Editor

Confidential Confessions © Reiko Momochi. Neck and Neck © LEE SUN-HEE, HAKSAN PUBLISHING CO., LTD.



BY AKI SHIMIZU

SUIKODEN III

I'm one of those people who likes to watch others play video games (I tend to run into walls and get stuck), so here comes the perfect manga for me! All the neat plot of a great RPG game, without any effort on my part! Aki Shimizu, creator of the delightful series *Qwan*, has done a lovely, lovely job of bringing the world of Suikoden to life. There are great creatures (Fighting ducks! Giant lizard people!), great character designs, and an engaging story full of conflict, drama and intrigue. I picked up one volume while I was eating lunch at my desk one day, and was totally hooked. I can't wait for the next one to come out!

~Lillian Diaz-Przybyl, Editor

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~Aaron Suhr, Sr. Editor

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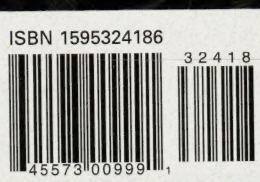

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